

February 2020 Student Member of the Month: Cassandra Abarca

1. Can you share a little about your background?

I originate from Waukegan, IL. I'm double majoring in Business Management and Spanish at Alverno College. On campus I have three jobs as a peer career coach, cashier, and peer tutor. As a Cristo Rey student I interned for more than 4 years at Discover Financial Services in their law department. My work at Discover helped me gain education and professionalism from a young age, I'll continue to foster the knowledge and skills I gained.

2. What is your favorite thing about Milwaukee?

Overall the whole city of Milwaukee is entertaining I enjoy the rich cultures, and opportunities the city offers to explore. Milwaukee has many fascinating places to visit, but my all-time favorite thing is the passion everyone has for sports and cultural celebrations. There are multiple diverse festivals to represent the diverse population of Milwaukee to commemorate for cultural traditions.

3. How did you become involved with HPGM?

I became involved with HPGM by seeking and learning about different clubs on campus. My hope was to grow my network in the greater area of Milwaukee to seek resources out of state. After attending Alverno's first HPGM board meeting, I became a part of their board as secretary. From the first moment I felt an instant connection with the board, and we became a family. Currently I am vice-president of the chapter and will continue to believe the values and goals HPGM endorses.

4. What are you most passionate about?

I'm passionate about helping others to bring happiness into people's life. Once I help someone, I feel a sense of gratitude and want to continue to practice benevolent acts. Hopefully I can pursue an occupation where I am able to assist my services to people who lack resources and guidance.

5. What would you tell students who are thinking about becoming an HPGM member, but aren't sure that they should?

HPGM offers a widespread of opportunities to network and grow as young professionals. The association stands for providing their members with necessary tools for future success. For example, HPGM offers great opportunities like workshops, networking events, volunteering, and scholarships. They assist students to gain valuable experience looking forward to advance in their career. I would recommend any student to join an HPGM chapter and explore the framework they supplement students with. All their school organizations support to help individual's grow as learners and communicators.

6. What's one fact about yourself you'd I like to share?

One exciting fact about myself is that I will be studying and interning abroad this summer to Barcelona, Spain. As a first-generation student I'm excited to advance my education and professional goals outside the country. My ambition is high for advancement in my family and through my forthcoming career. As the oldest sister I hope to spread my knowledge to make the college process easier for my younger siblings and future generations. I anticipate this study abroad experience to amplify my drive for learning and future accomplishments. Furthermore, this abroad internship will challenge me to advance and build my strengths and weaknesses. Lastly, one academic goal I have is to improve my Spanish and dive into a rich culture where I can consistently practice and utilize my first language.