

March 17th, 2025

DBA Dissertation Defenses

Last Friday, March 14th, we had another round of DBA Dissertation Defenses take place at the Brad D. Smith Center for Business and Innovation!

Lisa A. Nash, CPA, M.Acc. presented "Employee Benefit Plan Audits: Knowledge Spillover for Improving Quality". Lisa's Dissertation committee was comprised of Dr. Timothy Bryan (Chair), Dr. Nancy Lankton (Member), and Mr. Chad Sexton (Member).

After Lisa's presentation, we asked her a few questions about her experience with our DBA Program.

What is your current occupation?

Senior Lecturer at University of North Georgia

Why did you choose to pursue a DBA at Marshall?

I received my Undergraduate Degree at Marshall, so I was already sure it was a quality education, so coming back to Marshall was a no-brainer for me!

What would you tell students who are considering it?

Understand an area you may be interested in researching, a good foundation in statistics is always good. Also make sure to set aside time to commit to it, and understand that it is truly a commitment.

What has been your favorite aspect of our DBA program so far?

The Cohort has been really nice, it is extremely beneficial to have people who are going through it with you, and that can share their experiences, even though we are all covering different topics, it is nice to be able to bounce ideas off of each other and have that support. I also really enjoyed the residencies, being able to come together on campus allowed us to get to know each other better, and I don't think that is something you get with an all online program.

Myesha P. Holmes presented "Uncovering New Perspectives on Job Performance in Diverse Work Settings: A JD-R Theoretical Approach". Myesha's Dissertation committee was comprised of Dr. Jennifer Mak (Chair), Dr. Liz Alexander (Member), and Dr. Alan Letton (Member).

We were also able to catch Myesha after her





presentation for a few questions.

What is your current occupation?

Program Manager for Aerospace Company

Why did you choose to pursue a DBA at Marshall?

I had a pursuit of a doctorate degree dating back to 2006, the reason I chose Marshall was due to the cost efficiency, and the program being laid out to cover all residencies for the full three years. During the interview, the staff was very warm and interested, diverse and the available resources at no additional cost was a major bonus.

What would you tell students who are considering it?

Ensure that you master time management. A life event will take place during the three years, and you have to survive it while staying in school.

What has been your favorite aspect of our DBA program so far?

The cohort, this cohort was very collaborative and we basically became family. Our goal was to start the program together and to finish it together. Having that accountability and support made the journey a little easier because you weren't alone. Also, having the inperson residency was advantageous. Being able to meet the different professionals and professors, and being able to interact with them in a social setting allowed me to get to know them much better than having to do it all online.

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Human Resources Assistant - Heritage Farm On-Site, based in Huntington, WV

Digital Executive Producer - WOWK-TV On-Site, based in Charleston WV

Executive Assistant - Service Wire Company Please contact Kesling8@marshall.edu for more information

Guest Servies Representative - Clay Center for the Arts & Sciences of West Virginia \$10 - \$15 / hr On-Site, based in Charleston, WV

<u>Staff Accountant - Enterprise Mobility West Virginia Administrative Office</u> On-Site, Scott Depot, WV

Senior Director of Philanthropy - The Marshall University Foundation

Media Executive - WSAZ Newschannel 3 / Gray Media Group

Sales Territory Manager - AAA Cooper Transportation

Accounting/Administrative Assistant - Metro 911 of Kanawha County

Asset Manager - Emerald City Associates

For more information contact Andrew Kesling

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