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Bowman looks toward future in federal service

ANDREW CRITCHELOW The News-Enterprise Jun 5, 2019 Updated 2 hrs ago



Meredith Bowman, right, an upcoming senior at Western Kentucky University from Elizabethtown, receives the Gordon College of Business Outstanding Junior in Marketing award from interim dean Cathy Carey.

Submitted

Growing up as the daughter of two parents in the U.S. military, Meredith Bowman, 22, of Elizabethtown has a deep respect for the those who serve.

That respect has impacted her career aspirations, as she hopes to one day become a contracting officer for the federal government, ideally working with the Missile Defense Agency.

Bowman said her mother has been in the defense contracting field for 32 years and her father is retired from the military.

“I became interested in this career field after seeing how she was able to contribute to the defense of our nation through her contracting efforts,” Bowman said of her mother’s work.

Bowman, an upcoming senior at Western Kentucky University, is on the right track to reach her career goal. She now is taking part in a summer internship with the Missile Defense Agency in Huntsville, Alabama, which began May 28 and continues through Aug. 3.

Through her internship, some of Bowman’s responsibilities include research, report writing, oral briefings, policy development and program analysis.

“I’m looking forward to gaining a better understanding of the mission of the Missile Defense Agency and having the opportunity to learn the federal contracting process,” she said.

This is not Bowman’s first time working an internship with The Department of Defense. Last summer she served as an intern for the U.S. Army Cadet Command’s Leadership Development Program in Fort Knox, maintaining evaluation records for more than 5,500 cadets.

“The biggest takeaway from this experience was just seeing how intricate cadet command is and the diversity and skills that are needed for a successful camp,” Bowman said.

David Shines, leader development manager for the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, said Bowman was a self-starter during her internship.

“I found Meredith very easy to bring along and inform,” he said. “I could give her an overall task to perform and she was able to comprehend what it was we were doing.”

Bowman said the opportunity to work with the Department of Defense through two internships has been rewarding.

“I have always had a desire to give back my time and service for those who defend our country and both internships provided me that opportunity,” she said. “I wanted to be a part of something that was bigger than myself, where I could contribute to the overall mission.”

Bowman graduated in 2016 from John Hardin High School and went on to earn an associate degree in 2018 from Elizabethtown Community and Technical College. She is studying marketing at WKU's Gordon Ford College of Business.

"I truly enjoy trying to figure out why consumers buy what they buy and how I could successfully run a campaign that proves profitable," Bowman said.

At Western, Bowman helped re-establish the university's American Marketing Association chapter and serves as the group's president. She also serves as chancellor of WKU's business fraternity Delta Sigma Pi.

Bowman recently was recognized with the Outstanding Junior in Marketing award from the Gordon Ford College of Business in April during the college's 22nd annual Awards Banquet.

"I was truly shocked when I received the news from the marketing department that I won Outstanding Junior," she said. "I am extremely honored and thankful that the department chose to recognize me when there are other amazing marketing students at WKU."

Outside of her internships and studies, Bowman also has experience working for the Elizabethtown Citizens Police Academy, taking part in lectures, ride-alongs and police demonstrations. She has helped the organization with community engagement opportunities, passing out information about EPD during community events.

"The academy is a benefit to both the police department and community as it helps to build relationships and creates a group of citizens who are better informed about the reality of police work," she said. "The Elizabethtown Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association has given me the opportunity to give back to my community and to show my support and appreciation for our local police force."

Looking toward her future career ambitions, Bowman said she hopes to take part in the three-year Missile Defense Career Development Program following graduation from WKU.

"I know my dream job will take many years to accomplish, but I am excited to get started," she said.

Shines said Bowman is sure to do a fine job when she gets there.

“I think she’ll be a tremendous asset in federal service because of her ability to comprehend and analyze things quickly and come up with possible courses of action for a solution,” he said.

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Getting to know Meredith Bowman

Hobbies: Reading, watching movies, cooking.

Movies: “Silence of the Lambs,” “North and South.”

Television: “The Office,” “Parks and Recreation.”

Books: “Book Thief,” “Lovely War.”

Food: Italian and Mexican.

Music: Country.