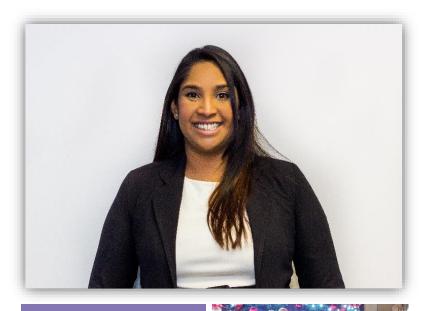
A WOMAN'S JOURNEY

KERRY MORRIS – Business Manager, Michael Page Procurement & Supply Chain, Africa



"

I'm a big believer in 'see it to be it'. Efforts have to constantly and consistently be made to profile the women in organizations, and their achievements.



What is your most significant achievement at PageGroup?

I have had the pleasure over the years to enjoy a lot of great experiences at Michael Page: Promotions, Annual High Flyers, Manager of the Quarter award; but I think the greatest achievement for me is seeing the growth of the Michael Page Procurement and Supply Chain discipline over the years.

When we started the Procurement and Supply Chain desk in 2012, it was the first of its kind in South Africa. There wasn't a database of candidates and we weren't as well established as our Finance and Sales desks. Seven years later looking back and seeing its development, knowing there were times when the market was tough, when we were just 1 person in this discipline, to now seeing its growth is encouraging. Just last year we had 117% revenue growth, which is fantastic!

What do you think career success looks like for a woman today?

I think success has many facets, you have to have a sense of achievement, feel like you are being recognised for what you have achieved, and be fulfilled. No matter what your level is and no matter how small the win, taking victory in the little things will help. Part of having a successful career as a woman is also not feeling like you need to compromise on your personal life to have a career. Many women want the picket fence and the dog and the kids and still want to be respected in the work place. I am a mum of 4 and expecting my 5th (eyes closed) and still geared towards my next promotion which is at arm's length. It is sincerely possible to have it all.

What is the one thing you would tell your younger self?

Appreciate yourself more - your capability and aptitude, and don't be afraid to rock brightly coloured 6inch heels when you're older. I think self-doubt and not appreciating yourself enough are some of our biggest obstacles, and I certainly would have had a more confident younger me that took more risks if I had believed that.

Which female leader inspires you and why?

Angela Merkel! To be a woman in Politics is a hard job. Not only is she a strong political mind, she also has a voice in the world that every leader takes heed to. She has been named Most Powerful Woman in the world 10 times and made the Forbes list of Most Powerful Person in the World. She doesn't have any children, but is fondly known by the nickname "Mutti", which means "Mother". She's been said to have "the appeal of a Thrifty Housewife [and] comes across as a sober voice of common sense in a post-truth world".

Some of your tips that could help more woman rise to the top...

- Believe in yourself
- There are no shortcuts to hard work, but work smart
- You can have a family and a career and be great at both
- There is nothing that you can't achieve if you put your mind to it