

10-Minute Manager



Andrea Austin
is liaison officer,
Competency-Based
Training Fund
Management Unit

Passion for training

Q: Are you where you've always wanted to be?

A: Yes, I've always wanted to apply my functional competencies in an area where I am passionate. As liaison officer for the Competency-Based Training Fund, I feel like I have married my functional expertise as a marketer and project manager with education, one of my greatest passions. I truly enjoy serving as a cheerleader for this important initiative which has the potential to transform the Barbadian workforce into a more competent, productive and globally competitive version of itself.

Q: What is your biggest professional challenge?

A: Putting away my laptop sometimes. My co-workers often tease me about whether I get any sleep.

Q: What is your biggest life challenge?

A: I am my own biggest critic. So every day I try to focus more on learning from

"teachable" moments and less on self-criticism.

Q: When you look to the future what do you see?

A: I spent many years studying and working abroad; so I envision a future where I can contribute more of my efforts to Barbados and the wider Caribbean. I also see a Barbados where we're more confident and empowered to excel on the job and in our careers. That's what Competency-Based Training is all about.

Q: What is your favourite pastime?

A: I am a self-confessed movie addict/critic. While I love to travel, for me, movies have the power of immersion into languages, cultures and experiences I am yet to tap into up close and personal.

Q: What is your favourite meal?

A: I am very easily bored by food so I constantly mix it up. I'd probably find it

difficult to refuse a creamy mushroom linguine with an uber-chilled glass of Sauvignon Blanc.

Q: On Saturday nights where are you likely to be?

A: Out and about with friends or at home curled up with Netflix.

Q: What upsets you the most?

A: When people don't honour their commitments or show a lack of accountability.

Q: What is your guiding philosophy?

A: Actions speak louder than words.

Q: If you had the chance to manage Barbados for a day, what would you do?

A: I would book a trip for persons who have never travelled to another country so that they can truly appreciate what they have here in Barbados and work towards making it even better.