

TRANSPORTATION  
SPOTLIGHT



BERNADETTE  
GRAY

COMPANY:

FedEx Freight

TITLE:

Managing Director, Freight  
Analysis

TRAINING ORGANIZATION  
OR COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY:

BS Chemical Engineering w/  
Honors - University of Tennessee  
at Knoxville,  
MBS Tulane University

CERTIFICATION/DEGREE:

Six Sigma Black Belt, SAFe 4 Agilist,  
American Society of Quality  
manager of Quality / Organizational  
Excellence

[memphis.edu/setwc](http://memphis.edu/setwc)



**Q:** How did you select your certification program or college major?

**A:** I was offered a 5-yr academic scholarship with an opportunity to coop and gain real work experience.

**Q:** What was the biggest influence in your selection of career pathway?

**A:** My love of Math & Science.



**Q:** What attracted you to the transportation industry?

**A:** I was living in Memphis at the time and needed to stay for family reasons. When I was considering career options, I wanted to change from the chemical industry. Desired a reputable company w/ career advancement (without having to relocate) & who supported the community. The answer was FedEx.

**Q:** How do you/your company make a positive impact on society/our community?

**A:** Not only does FedEx provide financial support to various causes in Memphis and around the world, it allows/encourages team members to give their time to make a difference in their local community.



**Q:** What's the most interesting thing you have been able to do in your professional career?

**A:** I spent a month in Budapest, Hungary working with talented colleagues from across the company to consult with non-government organizations on their critical challenges. This intensive experience allowed us to be immersed in the culture and to quickly come together as a 3-4 member team, assessing our own skills and strengths, and then coalesce into a unified force to make a positive impact.

**Q:** What makes you get up each morning excited about your profession?

**A:** The opportunity to create & maintain an environment which inspires others to be their best, and knowing that we contribute to the financial success of the company.

**Q:** If you could go back in time and select any elective course to take that would have better prepared you for the future, what would it be?

**A:** Not so much of a course, but I would be more intentional about interacting with the vast diversity of people from other countries to be a better student of the world and appreciate how much we are connected.

**Q:** What advice would you share with students or anyone considering your profession?

**A:** You can do anything as long as you are willing to put in the effort, which oftentimes includes sacrifices. Lyric from Mary Mary, Go Get Your Blessing – "But if you wanna get what you never got gotta do something that you never done."

Be open to the possibilities and opportunities... they may not come with a label that easily identify them.