



AMANDA DRAKE LIU

AMANDA'S SUCCESS STORY


RELAUNCH STATS

Length of
Career
Break  14
years


Nature of
Career
Break  Childcare

Time to
Relaunch  7
years


CAREER TRAJECTORY

 Pre-Break Employer
and Job Title

American Express
Director, Marketing

 Employer and Job
Title at Point of
Relaunch

MetLife - Act2
Customer Experience
Consultant

 Current Employer
and Job Title

ADP
Sr. Director, Data Analytics

ABOUT

Amanda Liu was confident that her education (MBA from a top 15 school) and professional experience (10 years post-MBA) would guarantee a quick and successful return to the workforce after she paused to raise her family. After submitting hundreds of applications to jobs she was more than qualified for, Amanda's career break proved to be longer than expected. When Amanda found the MetLife Act2 program and its mandatory two-year career gap, Amanda found the perfect relaunch opportunity.

HOW DID THE ACT2 RETURN TO WORK PROGRAM AT METLIFE MAKE RELAUNCHING EASIER FOR YOU?

The best part of relaunching through an internship program was not only that they were looking for someone like me but also the program leaders thought about the different needs of relaunchers and provided specific supports to allow us to be successful in this internship. I had left as a middle manager with direct reports and a good deal of responsibility – but the world of work didn't stand still while I jumped out to focus on my family. An internship was a perfect transition tool for me – test whether I could get back into the swing of things, brush away cobwebs and get back to the professional I had tucked away.

The program supports started on day one with an extended new hire orientation which covered not only company structure and strategy but also basic refresher classes in power point, excel, outlook, how to set up meetings, etc. This was important because those little hurdles were the things that I worried about the most. The little tech glitches that would point me out as someone who didn't belong. I know it seems silly now, but things like "how to book a conference room" worried me more than anything – but the way people work now (webex, chat) was so foreign to the way things were when I left the workforce. When you have imposter syndrome, the last thing you want to do is act like you don't know how to jump on a webex.

I was assigned to a group, with a couple real projects and timelines to manage. It wasn't some fluff assignment, but one that I really enjoyed. I had the chance to learn new things, to contribute and grow. I also had a senior leader who was assigned as my mentor. She was fantastic, made herself accessible and consistently supported me. We still keep in touch.

WHY DO YOU FEEL IT'S IMPORTANT FOR RELAUNCHERS TO "PAY IT FORWARD" WHEN THEY ARE HIRING?

So far, I have reached out twice to the relauncher community to try to find candidates for open roles on my team and I will keep trying. I think it's important to "pay it forward" because as a relauncher myself, I remember all too well how it felt, seemingly locked out of the workforce because I took time away. I also remember how driven I was (as most relaunchers would be) to prove myself once I got the chance to return to work. Why would anyone not want to tap into relaunchers – when you get experience and dedication from day one? Relaunchers may need some support at the beginning but one you get them going – that experience will prove very valuable.

*To read Amanda's full success story, visit
[iRelaunch's Success Story Archive!](#)*