



GARIMA CHANDRA

GARIMA'S SUCCESS STORY

RELAUNCH STATS

Length of Career Break  3.5 years

Nature of Career Break  Childcare, personal health Issue

Time to Relaunch  1 year

CAREER TRAJECTORY

Pre-Break Employer and Job Title

Nintendo
Software Engineer

Employer and Job Title at Point of Relaunch

CellNetix
Technical Project Manager

Current Employer and Job Title

CellNetix
Technical Project Manager

ABOUT

Garima Chandra comes from an engineering background. Born and educated in India, she moved to the United States in 2008. After coming to the US, she started working in the tech industry. In her nearly 10 year career, she was fortunate to work with the top tech companies of the country. In 2018, after the birth of her son, she decided to take a break from work and devoted her time to being a full-time mother and caregiver.

When she decided to return to the workforce, Garima pursued a couple of certifications to upskill and to build on her existing knowledge, while she volunteered to gain even more experience. Her journey to getting back into the workforce is full of achievements. Notably, Garima became a mentor to other relaunchers by sharing her learnings. She invested about a year in her upskilling to get up to date with industry standards and finally landed her next role as a Technical Program Manager.

HOW DID YOU DETERMINE YOU WANTED TO PIVOT INTO A NEW ROLE AFTER YOUR CAREER BREAK?

So it took me a couple of attempts, but I did some short-term courses in different fields to explore what courses and topics I liked and which I didn't. I also realized that I didn't want to return to doing the same work and in the same role. I then branched out to begin volunteering as a project manager and found myself doing really well with documentation and talking to people. Through this experience, I finally felt like I found my niche and that I had to pursue this path.

WHAT WAS THE MOST EXHILARATING PART OF RELAUNCHING FOR YOU?

The best part for me was that I actually received a lot of compliments when I was interviewing. I remember one of my interviewers, when she was interviewing me, she herself was a relauncher and so she was very happy to see me pushing through and was very encouraging. Despite all the rejection and failures, I was still pushing through, applying and interviewing for the roles. So receiving those type of compliments and encouragement from fellow relaunchers and even people who were interviewing me, these were the confidence-booster which kept me going.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO OTHER RELAUNCHERS?

Keep pushing forward. There will be a lot of failures and there will be times when you feel bad and you should give yourself the permission to feel bad. If you want to cry it out, just cry it out. I used to do the same thing and I will use to vent it out in the [iRelaunch Facebook Forum](#) as well. But after you give yourself the permission to feel bad, your next step is to keep pushing forward. Don't take anything personal. Don't perceive failure or rejection as you cannot do it...the most important thing is that you have to believe in yourself, you have to believe that you can do it. And once you start believing in yourself, people around you will see that confidence coming out.

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