

Courtney Labonge

ThermoFisher, Start-Up Team Manager at PPD

AGE:

29

WHERE WERE YOU BORN?

Tucson, AZ

HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED IN CHARLOTTE AREA?

I have lived in Charlotte for 18 months now.

TELL US A LITTLE BIT MORE ABOUT YOU?

My name is Courtney Labonge, and I am 29 years old. I grew up in Arizona but came out to North Carolina to go to college at UNCW (go Seahawks!). I was a competitive swimmer my whole life and that has led me to be exceptionally driven in all aspects of my life. I started my career in Raleigh at a mid-size Clinical Research Organization and eventually moved back to Wilmington and where I started working for PPD. Working in the pharmaceutical/clinical research industry has given me the opportunity to be a part of something bigger than myself and to affect many people's life and quality of life.

DURING YOUR TIME VOLUNTEERING FOR A COMMUNITY ACTIVITY OR PROJECT, WHAT IS YOUR MOST MEMORABLE MOMENT?

Back when I lived in Raleigh, NC I used to volunteer at a restaurant called A Place at the Table. They were a pay-what-you-can café and were largely based on volunteers to keep open. Having worked in the service industry for years, it was great to be able to use my experience to give back to the community. During one of my shifts, a woman came in not much older than I was at the time and needed a hot meal. She had just lost her apartment and had been homeless for the last month and she was out of food. It was amazing to see the difference it made to her to be able to get a hot meal for free and the change it made. Food is such a precious resource and one I took for granted until that moment when I realized that not everyone could just go to the store or open their cupboards.

IN YOUR OPINION, HOW DO YOU CONTRIBUTE TO THE COMMUNITY? PLEASE BE AS DETAILED AS YOU CAN.

With my work in clinical research and specifically my work with COVID research (both vaccine & other), I have been able to be at the forefront of a global pandemic. I was able to see my industry and specifically the work I did every day make a difference in millions of people's lives.

PLEASE LET US KNOW ANY AWARDS OR RECOGNITIONS YOU'VE RECEIVED IN YOUR PROFESSIONAL CAREER:

PharmaTimes Clinical Researcher of the Year

WHAT ARE YOUR HOBBIES OR INTEREST?

Taking my dog for a walk, hung out with friends, read a great book with a glass of wine, and a good Pelton cycle class.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE QUOTE THAT YOU STAND BY?

"If you don't have time to do it right, when will you have time to do it over?" John Wooden

WHERE DO YOU SEE YOURSELF IN 5 YEARS? 10 YEARS?

In 5 years, I see myself working within a pharmaceutical company, preferably one doing ALS research and I will have started a family with my husband Alex.

In 10 years, I would like to be in a leadership role within a pharmaceutical company and make real change by bringing lifesaving drugs to people in need.

CAN YOU SHARE ONE THING THAT IS ON YOUR BUCKET LIST?

Travel to every continent in the world. So far I have two crossed off and cannot wait to be able to travel to more.

WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU USED YOUR PASSPORT?

June 2022. I was the proud matron of honor at my sister's wedding in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico.

WHAT IS A FUN FACT ABOUT YOURSELF THAT NO ONE KNOWS?

I learned to swim when I was 2 years old, and water has always been my safe space. Whether it was a pool, lake or ocean, I have always been happiest in the water. That is what led me to become a competitive swimmer and I even swam Division 1 in college.

WHO IS YOUR HERO?

My grandma. She was the matriarch of my family and an amazing woman.

WHAT WAS THE LAST BOOK YOU READ?

The Power of Now by Eckhart Tolle

WHAT WAS THE LAST MOVIE YOU SAW?

Where the Crawdad Sings

WHAT WAS THE LAST CONCERT YOU SAW?

Jon Bon Jovi in the Spectrum center. It was AMAZING!

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