

Amanda Blanchette-Bellassai

Summit Funding, Loan Officer

Age: 29

WHERE WERE YOU BORN?

New York

HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED IN CHARLOTTE AREA?

17 Years

TELL US A LITTLE BIT MORE ABOUT YOU?

I am a first-generation college student who was in the charter class for an early college high school. I then went on to UNCC to obtain my BS in Psychology with a minor in Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights. I was going to attend UNCC's clinical counseling program for graduate school but found a passion for helping to teach people about wealth accumulation and home ownership. I never would have thought I would have become a loan officer; no one grows up saying that is the career choice they see themselves in, but I am so incredibly thankful to have found my place in this industry.

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

I have two moments that really stand out for me, one was in my final semester at UNCC, I was working at a safe house for sex trafficked girls as an overnight counselor. I realized if I continued in this field of work, I would only be witnessing the damage caused by abusers rather than providing tools. It took a significant toll on me which brought me to opening my mind in other areas where I could advocate in other ways. That brings me to my next moment. I was working as a loan partner at Summit Funding, this is where my career as a loan officer began, we attend quarterly volunteer opportunities as a company, and this quarter was to assist in feeding the Charlotte homeless community. It was at this event where I realized I worked for a company that not only provided tools to better people and their situation, but also gave back to the community. I found my home while helping others get into theirs.

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

I host monthly lunch and learns with realtors in the community where anyone can attend as we break down the myths of what it takes to become a homeowner. I also have one Saturday a month that is dedicated to helping those who need assistance in understanding

what it will take to prepare credit for homeownership. I also have quarterly workshops for the community where we go over the four quarters of wealth accumulation. Owning a home is only a portion of that and educating people is the first step in building financial success.

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

I have been recognized a few times by our corporate mothership as a Mortgage Loan Apprentice "Hero". This is where we help the most family's get into homes who otherwise would not have been able to. Along with the countless other families I have helped become homeowners.

WHAT ARE YOUR HOBBIES OR INTEREST?

I enjoy Yoga and Cycling.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE QUOTE THAT YOU STAND BY?

Be Bold enough to dream and Brave enough to try.

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

I see myself as a loan officer with a team and thousands of families helped in 5 and then 10 years. I am excited for a long career. I want to help others who enter this industry, see the contributions that this industry can make in others lives as we change the stigma of a loan officer being someone who just sends a pre-approval letter to go under contract on a home. With the tools that we have as Loan Officers, we should be teaching the community about how to make the right finical decisions and making closing on a home an exciting memorable experience. It is in fact, one of the biggest purchases someone can make in their life. Why not make it a fun one?

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

I would love to travel to Greece one day.

WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU USED YOUR PASSPORT?

Two years ago, my husband and I went to Spain.

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

I enjoy a good Cigar.

WHO IS YOUR HERO?

My here is my Husband. He is the most selfless, inquisitive and adventure seeking man I know.

WHAT WAS THE LAST BOOK YOU READ?

Outliers

WHAT WAS THE LAST MOVIE YOU SAW?

Mulan

WHAT WAS THE LAST CONCERT YOU SAW?

Florida Georgia Line