

TAKING CARE OF OURSELVES AND EACH OTHER



23 FEB USABlueBook's Teresa Williams on "Mastering" the HDS Tuition Reimbursement Benefit

by Bursch, Karissa A in [Our Stories](#)

As the famous writer Ralph Waldo Emerson once penned, "The mind, once stretched by a new idea, never returns to its original dimensions." And for Teresa Williams, Inside Sales Representative, USABlueBook, that couldn't be more accurate.



Pictured: FM Inside Sales Representative Teresa Williams with husband Kenny

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Teresa recently graduated in December 2017 with her MBA from North Park University in Chicago, IL, taking advantage of HD Supply's Tuition Reimbursement program to help fund her degree. Since having her mind stretched, Teresa's now begun coursework on a second master's degree – a Master's in Organizational Leadership – with a graduation goal planned for December 2019.

Teresa's search for knowledge all began in 2004, when she decided to pursue an undergraduate degree through North Park University's School of Adult Learning. Then she worked diligently over the past 13 years to achieve her long-time goal of an MBA. "And now I'm looking forward toward a Master's in Organizational Leadership – both because of my devotion to education but also to become a valuable asset to this organization," she says.

She loves how much she's learned and how much more she's now able to offer her team, but Teresa also notes how she couldn't have done it alone. "The demands of adult education can affect personal time with your family," she said. "But my husband, Kenny, has consistently been my biggest fan and supporter throughout this 13-year pursuit. I've also received a considerable amount of encouragement from my son and two granddaughters, and I've come to realize that when you set a good example for youth, in the pursuit of education, they embrace it fully."

Teresa was sure to thank her supportive HD Supply Family as well, "I am truly grateful to work for an organization that promotes education, as well as to receive such encouragement from Kathleen Burandt, President, USABlueBook; Wayne Colson, Regional Sales Director; and Dana Blassingame, Inside Sales Supervisor."

And now Teresa has become dedicated to sharing her knowledge by paying it forward. In December 2016, through her involvement with USABlueBook's Women In Network, she helped to coordinate and bring in an adult learning info session. Presenters from the nearby University Center of Lake County visited the Waukegan DC and shared details with HD Supply associates about the various universities in the area, the degrees offered and the programs of study available to them. Because, as Teresa says herself, "I am sharing my story not to pat myself on the back but, instead, to motivate others and reflect the positive ways that HD Supply & USABB value and support their associates."

Hats off to Teresa for stretching her mind, for her dedication to her education and for paying it forward. Keep up the great work!

HD Supply's Tuition Reimbursement Programs

HD Supply wants to set you up for long-term career success by making going back to school a financial reality. The purpose of these two programs is to encourage and support you as you consider enrolling in college or university courses to obtain an associate, bachelor's, master's or doctoral degree.