

meet members



Ebony Rahe

Job: Managing shareholder, Williams & Company PC, Spencer

Hometown: Pocahontas

Alma mater: University of Northern Iowa

Professional/community activities: ISCPA, AICPA, Spencer Main Street board member, youth coach, Sunday school teacher

How I was inspired to become a CPA: My high school accounting teacher first got me interested in accounting, then Professor Andreessen at UNI solidified my interest.

What message do you have for high school and college kids about a career as a CPA? An accounting degree can lead to so many different careers paths, but it isn't all about crunching numbers. Communication skills are so important, and I would encourage students to not neglect the communication courses. Looking back, I wish I had taken a few more communication courses in college.

What are some of the biggest changes you've seen in the profession? The biggest changes I have seen since I first started would be the evolution of technology, the focus on advisory services, and increased flexibility in work schedules.

What is your favorite thing about your job? The team members and the clients I work with every day.

How has your background and experience shaped who you are today? Growing up in a farming family, we were expected to pitch in whether it be picking up rocks, walking beans or just delivering meals to the field. I probably wasn't really crazy about growing up on a farm while I was actually doing it, but looking back I can appreciate it for what it taught me; hard work, dedication, loyalty and a drive to succeed.

Have you had any mentors who helped/influenced you along the way? I have been lucky to have multiple shareholders at Williams & Company that have helped guide me in my career path. I know it is cliché, but I wouldn't be in the position I am today without their coaching and support.

What is your biggest achievement to date - personal or professional? Raising a family and becoming managing shareholder of a top 400 firm.

I never leave home without: My phone and coffee. I have about a 30-minute commute and usually listen to podcasts or audiobooks on my drive.

When I have free time: I spend it with my husband and kids. This time of year, we enjoy boating, golfing and everything else the Iowa Great Lakes area has to offer.

People don't know this about me, but: I enjoy quilting but have not found time for it since starting a family.

Ebony and her husband Jared live in Lake Park with their children Sydney (12), Beckett (11) and Maddox (7).

First job: Walking/riding beans

Favorite tv show or series: The Office

Favorite food: Fresh walleye

Favorite app: Stitch Fix - I should have never put that app on my phone during Covid.

Favorite movie: A League of Their Own

Favorite band: I listen to a wide variety of music. Favorite right now is Queen

Currently watching/streaming: Whatever my kids are watching. Currently it's Once Upon a Time with my daughter.

Last book I read: "Dare to Lead" by Brene Brown

Last audiobook: "The Five Dysfunctions of a Team" by Patrick Lencioni

Favorite line from a film: "It's supposed to be hard. If it wasn't hard, everyone would do it. The hard... is what makes it great." -A League of Their Own