EMPOWERING YOU

Catalysts for Positive Change

Looking back at where I was in 2016 and the journey I have made to date, I am so grateful to my manager (at the time) recommending and encouraging me to attend the 'Empowering Women in a Digital World' course.

Having had just (several months before) been promoted to Applications Manager, managing three IT teams consisting of 25 staff, I assumed that the course would be about digital solutions to which like minded women in the IT field would learn, explore, share ideas and innovate. Little did I realise that it would transform how I view myself, handle myself and challenge myself. I developed the understanding of techniques to be an effective person through all my roles and in all walks of life….whether I am a manager, employee, friend, mother, wife, sister, daughter, member of the community and so on. The two greatest messages I took away and have used often 1) "feel the fear and do it anyway", and 2) "reflect often, but don't over reflect (in essence, beat yourself up!) on the negatives".

The course tutors were absolutely fantastic, full of knowledge, skill, expertise and more importantly made the experience fun and memorable. The cohort of women I met on this course were truly inspiring – each and every one of us on their own journey. We found synergy and trust with one another and have continued to support each other. My 'heels' became very well known ;-)

I have attended round table events (facilitated by some of the ladies on the course) to continue to keep in touch with the learning and networking with like minded women. In November 2018 I co-launched the national Local Government Applications Managers Network (LGAMN) with a fellow programme graduate, which is proving successful and has grown in membership – continuously encouraging the concept of effective networking and collaboration.

@martinwalkerphotography

Since the course I have been brave enough to take on challenges and continuously push and test myself – developing more resilience and experience in dealing with varied situations, particularly in the work environment. I believe the course has contributed to my personal growth as well as success of my career, where the new proposed IT structure announced just recently indicates my team to grow to 5 teams, consisting on 33+ IT staff.

The coaching part of the course has left me intrigued and wanting to develop and explore this skill so that I can offer coaching support to my team managers as well as anyone and everyone around me. And so my journey continues……!

Iftaz Hussain