

Women in Aviation



2021

What's a decade in the aviation industry? For Kristen, it's this.....

Kristen began in working at Prime Turbines in May of 2011 and has since seen multiple different aspects of the business as well as being *promoted just this month, to PT6A Program Manager.*

Kristen notes that one of the biggest supports in her continual success is that of her current manager. "What I truly admire is that he takes the time to explain and show things throughout his daily functions; he doesn't just say "do this" per say.

I love to learn and grow, so I am always asking questions and he's always ready to not just answer them but explain them as well.

... He has truly been an amazing mentor and leader. I am really grateful for all he has taught me".

Kristen grew up the middle child of three siblings in a household where her mum worked as a hairdresser and her stepdad stayed home to take care of everyone. Although maybe considered outside the norm, Kristen reflects that "they were both very hardworking in their own ways and I feel that they definitely influenced me in that respect".

Growing up in the peaceful country, where summer nights were spent sleeping on the porch, Kristen dreamed of being a teacher. In fact, her first major was education where she studied elementary and secondary education.

Now in 2021, having started in 2020 Kristen studies a Bachelor of Business Administration with an accounting focus. Kristen will graduate in 2022 with only 8 classes left to go- Exciting!

To Kristen a work/life balance is imperative- “For me, I know that when I start to get stressed and feel overwhelmed, *I know I’m doing too much and need to take a step back.* Personally, I think that an unbalanced life will cause burnout quickly. However, everyone is different- I don’t think there’s a one scenario that fits all. Being able to set aside time for yourself is important so that you can enjoy life and all the offerings”.

One of Kristen’s secrets to keeping that balance- *staying active*, “I am big into running; it’s not uncommon for me to lace up my shoes and go out for an hour or more”.

With all her experience in aviation we asked Kristen...

How can women in the workplace make their mark?

Honestly, I think that if one works hard at what they do, dedicates their time (learning), has drive & determination and is selfless they will go far.

If you truly love what you do it doesn’t take much effort.

Do you think women entering the workforce now are better off than when you entered and why?

As a female, I don’t feel that it’s hard to enter the aviation industry; however, I do feel that as a female we tend to be undermined on some facets.

What is your organisation doing well in term of gender equality?

Throughout the company it is very apparent that gender equality is not an issue with the hiring of staff. I feel the ratio is equal.

What are your greatest accomplishments in this field?

I would say my greatest accomplishment in this field is just excelling at what I do. I love my job- I love having my hands-on bits and pieces of the business from customer service to purchasing to invoicing, etc. *I think having my hands on the different facets of the business gives me an upper hand* on understanding all/most of the processes that it takes to run an effective facility.

What are you most grateful for in your life?

I am grateful for the experience I have incurred thus far, especially in the aviation industry and can’t wait to learn more and excel!

