

Yvette Duarte
Class of 2015 Graduate

Yvette Duarte is a Long-Term Care Professional with 22 years of leadership experience and success working with seniors in a Continuing Care Retirement Community (CCRC). At the age of 17, she got her start with Valle Verde as a waitress, and has served as the Residential Care Director, providing oversight of residential, assisted, and memory care areas since 2003 with a recent promotion to Health Services Director. She holds an undergraduate degree in Business Management and a master's degree in Business Administration. Yvette lives in Goleta with her husband and blended family consisting of five children, and two grandchildren.

How would you describe your capstone project and the issue you are trying to solve?

I am passionate about elder care, specifically nursing homes and memory care, which are parts of long-term care solutions. As we continue to age, it will become more and more important to have environments that commit to honoring elders and creating homes. Additionally, leadership development is of great importance to me; I am a mentor to other caregivers, growing them into strong leaders through the provision of necessary tools and resources needed to be successful in this field. These greatly influenced and guided each step of my Antioch MBA capstone project, which focused on creating person-directed care environments for our elders in nursing homes as well as deinstitutionalizing the nursing home setting throughout Santa Barbara County.

What was the greatest take-away from working on this project?

Anything is possible! I now have a great business plan and vision book that I can share as I continue to pursue the fulfillment of this dream. One of my biggest revelations was that there is a huge need for this kind of elder care, and this need drives me in the implementation process of my project. So far, the impact has not only been positive for me but for those in my personal and professional life. I recently presented my project at our long-term care state association's annual conference on aging. I experienced so much support from those who believe in my project and my passion. It was an amazing way to validate what I've been working towards over the last 20 years.

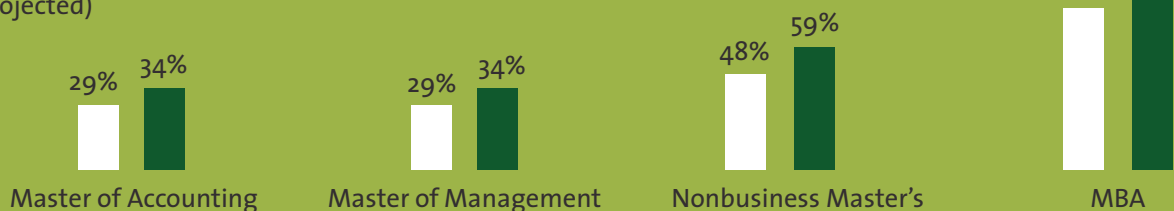
Is there anything else you would like to share about your MBA experience with Antioch?

I truly have been transformed and the MBA program has contributed to the successes I am experiencing. I appreciated the diversity within the cohorts, professors, staff, and stakeholders. Each faculty member served as a mentor and seemed to bring out the best of us, both as a cohort and as individuals. Additionally, the curriculum presented was outstanding and created an opportunity for self and group learning. I am so pleased I was accepted and have successfully completed Antioch's MBA program. The program's creation felt as if it were perfectly timed and tailored for me, and in the future I may pursue Antioch's PhD.

2015 (Actual)
2016 (Projected)

Employers signal solid hiring market in 2016

2015 Hiring Outcomes and 2016 Hiring Plans, by Candidate Type



Source: GMAC 2015 Year-End Employer Poll