

Responses to Questions 1, 2 & 3 – Sample 1

Question 1

Born in Puerto Rico to Dominican mother and Colombian father, Nurys immigrated to Florida with her family when she was 12 years old. Life was difficult for the family, and both her parents worked part-time jobs to support Nurys and her siblings. Enrolled in middle school, she quickly learned English. At the age of 15, her father went to prison, and this began a life-long immersion into the criminal justice system for Nurys. Her father spoke little English, so Nurys worked with his lawyer and prison officials to help her father correct his mis-steps while serving his time. During this time, she developed a heart for the needs of prisoners, and after high school graduation, pursued a college degree in Criminal Justice on a soccer scholarship at Mount Ida, with earned financial aid for academic excellence. After graduation, she worked at the Suffolk District Attorney's Office in a variety of crime units, eventually earning a promotion as Director of Community Relations for DA Conley. In 2004, she went to work for the Kerry presidential campaign, and other local races, eventually joining the Patrick re-election campaign as Deputy Campaign Manager, where she then became part of his administration. She ran Patrick's *Safe and Successful* youth initiative, and managed the Witness Protection Board for the state.

Two years ago, she was hired by AT&T as Regional Director of External Affairs, and runs many initiatives throughout the state both in English and Spanish, as she is bilingual. Her unique experience in her legal and legislative work enables her to work effectively with a broad range of people, and to communicate effectively to bridge gaps and affect change.

Question 2

Having gone through her father's incarceration experience with him, as well as her work history, Nurys wanted to bring about change within the young, female Latina community. Two years ago, she founded CHICA, Inc., a Boston-based nonprofit organization for Latinas ages 14 to 18 from low income and underserved communities in Boston, Lawrence, Holyoke and Springfield. This is a three-year membership program that provided participants leadership workshops, mentoring and summer internships. Currently there are over 60 participants in these communities, and Nurys feels her efforts to link participants with volunteer mentors and other volunteers is making a big difference on how young Latinas view themselves and their futures. Her goal is to help them look toward their futures with promise and goals to achieve their dreams.

Nurys has been awarded the 2012 Boston Business Journal 's Emerging Leader, the American Red Cross Hero Award – 2013 Youth Services Hero, Mount Ida Distinguished Alumni Award 2013 and saluted as a 'Next Generation Latina' by Latina Magazine in 2012.

Question 3

Dynamic, selfless, compassionate, helper, smart.

Responses to Questions 1, 2 & 3 – Sample 2

Question 1

As a small-town girl, Tricia grew up in rural NH on 7 acres of land – complete with cows - and horses on adjacent property. Tricia credits her parents Bill and Trudy with giving her a solid foundation on which to build, and build she has. A gifted athlete, she was recruited by Western Connecticut State University, where she played competitive volley ball and was captain her junior and senior years. With a degree in Marketing, Tricia was an intern at The Catamount Group. Here, she learned about direct marketing in this all-female firm, and honed sales and marketing skills. After two years, she joined Trudy at Michaud, the family business.

Today, Tricia is poised to take the reins of the business her grandfather began. Wanting no handouts, she began as the receptionist and worked her way up through Customer Service, Account Management and Sales to her current position of VP of Sales & Marketing. Under her guidance, Tricia has expanded to a second site in Andover, and has plans to grow and expand the business into new markets in the future. Tricia credits her success in being in a predominantly male industry to her roots as a competitive athlete; it's given her the drive and determination to succeed.

Question 2

A dynamic, young leader, Tricia loves connecting people and organizations, and has had the opportunity to do so in the many groups where she has volunteered or otherwise been involved. She is a founding member of the Merrimac Valley Chamber's *Next Generation Leaders*. She loves organizations who serve young children, and has served as Chair of the Michael B Christensen Community & Family Support Center, and fundraises for their Blue Ribbon Committee raising funds for Child Abuse Awareness Month [April]. She has served on the Methuen Board of Trade and the Methuen Exchange Club. She is a current member of the Lawrence Rotary Club. At the Guilmette Elementary school, she volunteers as a classroom reader, and organizes their Career Day, and delivers dictionaries to 3rd graders. Married to husband Mike, she is expecting their first child this coming October.

Question 3

Leader, communicator, advisor, engaging, good sense of humor.

Responses to Questions 1, 2 & 3 – Sample 3

Question 1

Throughout her professional career, Ellen has been a strong advocate in the field of homelessness prevention and housing preservation, with a particular focus on serving those with the greatest challenges. She began her career in public service at a residential, prison-release program for women struggling with addictions. In 1994, she joined Commonwealth Land Trust, what was then a small community-based nonprofit organization developing affordable housing. Early on, she facilitated the development of its housing management department with the belief that a more holistic approach to management would enhance the quality of life for the organizations' residents. In 1999, Ellen went on to lead the organization as President & CEO. Over the past 19 years, Ellen has helped the organization grow from a staff of three to a staff of thirty, providing housing to over 600 individuals. The organizations' housing management services integrate a management, maintenance and case

management team working together to support residents with often long histories of life on the street in their efforts to remain housed. Ellen's approach has made the organization self-sufficient and has enabled it to keep growing while improving its ability to best meet its mission. Her forward thinking approach and her commitment to helping others is echoed in her staff.

In 2004, Ellen took on the acquisition and rehabilitation of Windsor House, a rooming house historically characterized by significant criminal activity and unsafe, unsanitary conditions, located in one of the toughest parts of Lawrence. Together with a dedicated, determined staff, she transformed the building into a safe and supportive environment for residents working to change their lives. The turnaround has had a positive impact on the surrounding community, as well as on the lives of those who live there. With this valuable resource of quality housing combined with services, people who had previously faced nearly insurmountable obstacles are now equipped to rise above challenges and realize their goals.

Question 2

As President & CEO of a nonprofit organization in challenging economic times, Ellen works tirelessly to keep everything and everyone going. She wholeheartedly dedicates herself to the organization and its mission – providing housing and services as the first step towards helping individuals to effect permanent positive life change. Over the years, she and her staff have helped to provide housing and opportunities to thousands of individuals, many of whom would not have otherwise been served. She is committed to serving the most marginalized and most underserved members of our community. At a time when resources and funding are becoming increasingly scarce, Ellen continually strives to find new ways to enhance the services to the organization's residents and improve the quality of their lives. Ellen's work is an amazing example of the difference that one special individual can have in the lives of many.

Question 3

Original, compassionate, strong, determined.