

Today I feel empowered and incredibly passionate about what I do. I have to admit that this blog won't give you helpful tips on how to be an EA, or how to organise events well, or how to deal with challenging clients but today I type with passion.

After struggling for years with being proud of myself in my profession, I feel like I want to shout from the rooftops... **I AM AN EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT**. I am embarrassed to admit that I have always felt shy about what I do, and I started to believe that I wasn't in a worthwhile profession in comparison to my successful friends. You hear doctor and teacher, and you understand their role. Too often I have been tongue tied trying to explain, or even justify, what I do.

However, there is a fire in my belly where I feel completely immersed in my career path and for the first time I have goals of where I want to be in five years' time.

I have carved my own career journey, taking on every possible opportunity I could in my previous administrative roles, working as an unpaid PA intern for six months, volunteering to organise charity events, and working my way up to PA level and then reaching the EA level, welcoming minuting, event organisation, event hosting, briefings and I am now managing and mentoring my own PA Apprentice...

I am a 'yes' woman when it comes to my career journey. There are opportunities everywhere and it is all about grabbing them when you can (or indeed making the opportunity yourself by offering your knowledge and wisdom). If you are professional, helpful and enthusiastic, colleagues and clients are more likely to engage with you for further opportunities. Building a rapport and relationship with others is incredibly important and being passionate takes this to another level.

From seeing the EPAA Twitter feed amongst the EA/PA community on Friday, I think I speak for everyone who attended the EPAA Together Towards Tomorrow 2016 conference when I say **thank you** to all the amazing speakers, all the engaging presentations and a special thank you to Victoria Darragh. Thank you got giving me a voice when I felt I wasn't entitled to have one.

This blog entry is just too simply say: keep going, keep smiling and keep doing what you love so well. I am now not shy to communicate with others what my role entails, it is our job to fly the flag for PA/EA's. Often in my career I have felt that I need a little reassurance, a little boost... and I think we all felt overwhelming support on Friday 25 November.

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