

Leaders to Learn From

Kate Marshall

Lieutenant Governor, Nevada

“There is an idea [that you have] of what your life is going to look like based on the expectations and opportunities of the people around you.” Kate Marshall grew up in a working-class neighborhood in San Francisco as the oldest of six children. She was a very intelligent and shy child whom at age 12 wanted to be a librarian. “I could never image having a career where I would have to speak in front of people, let alone be a public person.” She worked extremely hard to push through socioeconomic roadblocks and graduated with a bachelors and then law degree from the University of California, Berkeley. “I have been blessed to walk past the boundaries that I thought were set on me from childhood].” In November of 2018 Kate was elected Lieutenant Governor of Nevada after running a campaign that championed her strong beliefs in workforce development, small businesses, and education.



Her Untraditional Pathway to a Political Career

The path from childhood to law school and beyond was not a straight forward one for Kate. “When you grow up you think that somehow you go from A to B, but I don’t think that happens for many women. It certainly didn’t happen for me.” After college Kate had mostly clerical jobs but then decided to join the Peace Corps where she was placed in Kenya teaching high school. After two extremely rewarding years she returned home and began the search for a new career. She took a job as a paralegal at a law firm eventually deciding to attend law school after being encouraged by her bosses to continue her education. “I didn’t even think about politics at that point, and I think most women don’t make that connection either.” After law school, Kate went on to serve with distinction in the Department of Justice where she received the Antitrust Division’s Outstanding Contribution Award for service. Her career in public service continued when she became the Senior Deputy Attorney General for the state of Nevada, then in 2006 was elected State Treasurer. Kate likes to describe herself as an “introvert who appreciates details, numbers, and making sure that things come together. I care about the people who live in Nevada and really want to make a difference with the opportunity I’ve been given.”

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The Role of a Lieutenant Governor

The role of Lieutenant Governor differs from state to state. In Nevada Kate is the 2nd in command, the President of the State Senate, the head of Nevada Tourism and the Vice Chair of Transportation and Economic Development. The position allows her to work with small and large businesses in Nevada to make sure the state's economy runs smoothly. Additionally, the opportunity has enabled her to interact with people from all walks of life, and continue her longtime dedication to public service.

Advice for Future Leaders

“Listening is the best quality a leader can have. People think leaders expound upon great thoughts. I think a great leader listens, is willing to learn, has an open mind but also has the discipline on follow-through to get things done. I often have a lot of ideas, but those ideas won't get anywhere unless I can hone it in and figure out how we're going to follow through and actually make it happen.”

The Role Mentoring Plays

In February when Caesars Entertainment launched the Million Women Mentors-Nevada chapter Kate knew the movement was something she wanted to be a part of. “We will grow Nevada's economy from the bottom up, with us and with our children,” she said at the kick-off celebration. Kate along with the members of Caesars are spearheading the movement in mentoring opportunities pledged. “As women, we need to be mentored but also affirmed, for someone to say, ‘you're okay.’ And for me it has always been about being able to take the next step. Having people who somehow felt like I was worthwhile without asking anything of me.”

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