

## A Recent Alumna's Story



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While at FIU I was awarded the Hyatt Minority scholarship and was invited to stay at the Grand Hyatt NY, meet some of the Hyatt Corporate Directors and attend the annual Hotel Motel Show. During this time I fell in love with the monstrous property as well as the Hyatt attitude and culture. I then was given the opportunity to interview for the CMT program. I started my Corporate Management Training program at the Grand Hyatt New York in August 2007 with a concentration in sales. For the first 3 months I worked closely with all the departments during my rotation. Then I concentrated on international sales for the last 4 months of my program.

During the entire rotation and concentration I would bring up the 'environmental subject'; we make such an immense environmental impact just operating. After spending some time with engineering, I began to suggest ideas here and there on how we could reduce our waste and reduce costs by starting a strong recycling program. In sales, I also suggested we do green meetings amongst other changes in the offices. The GM at the time overheard that I was suggesting changes in all different departments and in January he called me to his office. I was nervous as I was not sure if I was in trouble for speaking out in areas I was not an expert in. I will never forget, he said something similar to: "What do you want to do with your future?...become a sales manager or risk developing a new position that does not even exist in Hyatt as of today. You can make this happen, it is a great opportunity and you are at the right place at the right time. Your passion shows and we are offering this position to you as

you know the facility operations and you can help us make the positive change and help the environment".

Since January, I began the first Green Team in this property and I am heading the environmental department as I work with all department heads and report to the VP of operations here at Grand Hyatt New York. So far many new projects and initiatives have taken place. Hyatt Corporation has also started a worldwide Hyatt global program known as 'Hyatt Earth', the company assigned a VP of Environmental affairs and I am glad to have not just her support but all of Hyatt corporation and departments at this property.