

Fall 2018 – Alumni Spotlight

Janet A. Boekhorst, MIR '10

Assistant Professor, University of Waterloo



Janet completed a Bachelor of Commerce degree at the University of Guelph before she pursued a Master of Industrial Relations at Queen's University. She was motivated to deepen her understanding of how to help make employees more engaged at work, so she continued her studies with a Doctoral Degree in Human Resource Management at York University.

Janet has published her research on employee engagement, workplace diversity and inclusion, and human resource management in various academic journals. She has also presented her research at national and international conferences and received several national awards, including the HRRI Best PhD Dissertation Award.

Following the completion of her PhD, Janet worked as an Associate Consultant at Gallup in Toronto. In this role, she was mostly responsible for supporting employee engagement initiatives predominantly for clients within Canada and the U.S. Her experience in the MIR program

was instrumental in providing her the knowledge and skills related to leadership and project management that were needed to exceed client expectations.

Afterwards, Janet decided to travel for 9 months mostly throughout Asia, the Middle East, the Balkans, etc. Upon her return to Canada, she held the role of a Further Education Advisor at the University of Waterloo, where she supported students, alumni, and staff members with their further education aspirations. Janet has recently started a new role as an Assistant Professor in the Conrad School of Entrepreneurship and Business at the University of Waterloo.

On a final note, "I strongly believe that my career path would not have taken its current shape without the continued support of the faculty and staff associated with the MIR program. The MIR program provided me with numerous theoretical and practical experiences that have enabled me to develop numerous transferable skills, competencies, and knowledge needed to flourish in my career, especially given that the world of work has changed significantly since the completion of the program. Moreover, I firmly believe that the MIR program provides a unique and special network of supportive professionals who share similar professional aspirations and goals".