

Mariana Tomas-Savage, Senior Change Manager, Cigna

Mariana is a valued ACMP member with a long tenure with the chapter with a tremendous resume. She has served twice on ACMP PNW Board of Directors, once as the Marketing Director and as the Thought Leadership Team Director.

Mariana loves to kayak, hike, and to cave (don't call it spelunking!). In other words, she enjoys the natural abundance of our beautiful Pacific Northwest. She is a photographer, a poet, and a baker. And, her favorite thing is to gather people for a lively conversation over good food and red wine.

Our conversation with Mariana . . .

ACMP PNW: Tell us about your background. What is your education and where did you grow up?

Mariana: I grew up in a small resort town on the Adriatic coast of Croatia. I came to the USA in my late twenties because of the war. This is where I changed my field of study from languages to management and graduated from North Park University in Chicago with my bachelor's degree. I also got a master's in organizational psychology from the Chicago School of Professional Psychology. I have background as Six Sigma Black Belt, and hold many change management certifications including AIM and Prosci, and as a Prosci trainer. I am proud to say that I was among the first 100 people to obtain CCMP certification.

ACMP PNW: How long have you been working in Change Management? How did you choose this career?

Mariana: I did change management before I even knew what it was called. It was just something that no one else thought of, but I saw as necessary as I was working on implementing technology in 1999. Once I realized that it was possible to dedicate myself to change management completely, I jumped in and never looked back.

ACMP PNW: What's the biggest reward you get from your change management career?

Mariana: That's a great question. My main interest has always been with the people--helping them navigate through the change and seeing them succeed in the end. I relish having opportunities to approach problems creatively. I love to try out new things and innovate. For example, I've combined my passions for change, coaching, and facilitation to launch www.surf-zone.com. I started the project alone, but I'm now grateful to be implementing with Stephanie Fleming, another ACMP PNW member. It is about to launch soon!

Thanks for the opportunity to share!