

Gianna Driver-Balme

TAMS Class of

Distinguished Alumnus 2015



Gianna Driver-Balme leads global HR for a Silicon Valley-based technology company. Originally from Longview, Texas, Gianna attended TAMS from 1999 to 2001 and was a member of FACES, the Judicial Board and Student Council. She currently lives in the San Francisco Bay Area with her husband and their very adorable (and head-strong!) 2-year-old daughter, Abigail.

After graduating from TAMS, Gianna attended the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania (Penn) in Philadelphia and earned a bachelor's degree in economics, with a concentration in management and entrepreneurship. The Penn experience was a great one (not nearly as awesome as the TAMS one though!), and in her senior year there, Gianna was recruited by a corporate insurance company in San Francisco, Marsh McLennan.

Gianna entered the professional world at Marsh, but she soon realized her passion was working with people from diverse backgrounds and helping them become successful. In late 2005, Gianna started her own company, Gianna Fair Trade (GFT), a social enterprise focused on creating sustainable economic opportunities for underprivileged women artisans.

By 2011, GFT was working with villagers and women artisan groups throughout Asia and sold products into museums and boutiques across the U.S. and Canada. Gianna was named one of *Inc. Magazine's* "30 Under 30" and was later recognized in *Glamour* magazine for her work with global women's organizations.

Being an entrepreneur is an incredible journey that requires complete dedication and attention. When Gianna started her family, she decided to resign her post as CEO and focus on being a mom while having a "normal" day job in Silicon Valley. Gianna is currently a VP of People Operations and spends her time building systems and processes to help a high-growth global organization focus on its people strategy.

When Gianna isn't working or spending time with her family, she can be found running (half!) marathons, traveling, or enjoying a good laugh with friends.