

# CMSA Alumni of The Month

## Tara Blotske '03- Ryan Companies

### December Spotlight



## Senior Project Manager

**Tara Blotske '03** graduated from Lakeville Senior high school (now Lakeville North) in 1997. While in high school, Blotske found a passion for finance and followed her passions to Normandale Community College where she started pursuing a business degree. After a year at Normandale, she felt as if she had more to offer, so she transferred to Minnesota State Mankato to get a four-year degree in finance.

After a year of being a Maverick, Blotske switched to the Construction Management major. "Numbers were interesting, but I wanted to be in a field where I saw what those numbers really meant, not just what they were on paper" she said. In her early years of being in the Construction Management program, Blotske had to work harder than most to succeed, as she was one of a very few women in the field at the time. "My first career fair was very uncomfortable. I had people make comments about going to the bars later instead of asking me if I was looking for an internship. One person even went as far to write some unnecessary comments referring to me being a woman at the top of my resume".

Despite these challenges, Blotske went on to have an exceptional career. She landed an internship with Adolfson and Peterson while in school. After she graduated, she was brought on full time and worked with Adolfson and Peterson for thirteen years. After her time with Adolfson and Peterson, she spent time with RJM construction, and now works for Ryan Companies.

Blotske is now a Senior Project Manager at Ryan Companies. She is currently overseeing several staff and four superintendents on a one-hundred-million-dollar project for Upsher-Smith in the Cities.

Tara is a fantastic example of what our graduates can accomplish. Current students, especially females, should look to Tara as a great example to follow. Keep up the great work, Tara!

*Are you or someone you know interested in being featured in a spotlight article? Please contact Campbell Watkins, CMSA Alumni Committee Chairman at: [Campbell.watkins@mnsu.edu](mailto:Campbell.watkins@mnsu.edu)*



### Pro Tips

*"It is important as a PM to not only run the current project, but to make sure the next project is lined up as well."*

*"Make sure when you are looking to work for someone, you do your research on them as much as they do their research on you. You need to make sure your core values line up well."*

### Visit Us!

[MankatoCMSA.com](http://MankatoCMSA.com)

### Upcoming CMSA events-

*Mount Kato Tubing- Jan 24<sup>th</sup>*

*Guest Speaker/giveaways @ Jakes Stadium Pizza- Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>*