



TAMPA BAY

Press Release Contact:

Jenn Camps – Chair Marketing & Communications

SIM Tampa Bay Chapter

marketing@simtampabay.org

Motivational IT leader Dora Boussias wants young professionals, especially women in technology, to remember these four things

Dora Boussias has never been one to shy away from a challenge.

Whether it's raising awareness of diversity and inclusivity in the computer science industry or challenging the status quo of gender roles in business technology, Boussias is committed to her role as a compassionate and headstrong figure.

“I want to make sure with my work, I am making an impact. It's not just about doing busy work, it's about contributing value that drives meaningful business benefits and outcomes for the organization itself and its ultimate beneficiary, be it customer or patient.” Boussias said.

An adaptable, resilient, and inclusive leader, Boussias has amassed high praise within the community for her commitment to driving change and transforming the industry for women in IT.

She has also managed numerous leadership roles and made an impact at global organizations within the medical technology, retail, financial services, and insurance industries.

“I tell my team this all the time; my goal is for us to deliver against our commitments, while having fun. So, while I am very intentional about driving clarity of individual and team expectations and how they connect to strategic objectives, I am also deliberate about best matching my folks' skills and passions to their respective goals and inspiring them by leading by example. A key differentiator, however, is that I am also genuine about connecting with my team on a human level. Being consistently authentic and

fostering a culture of collaboration, transparency, trust and credibility drives sustained engagement with my team and my stakeholders,” Boussias said.

Although her career in information management and enterprise architecture has expanded globally, Boussias’ passion for innovative technology sparked during her last year of high school in Greece.

“I had taken a course in BASIC programming and really enjoyed it,” Boussias said. “I thought it sounded like the job of the future, which would provide me with a lot of opportunity and could make a good living.”

When she was just shy of 18-years-old, Boussias was faced with a difficult decision: stay in Greece with her family to focus on literature and teaching or risk moving to the United States to pursue a career in computers and programming.

“I decided that teaching was not a practical thing for me to do because a lot of people were already in that field. So, I moved to the U.S. to get my degree in Computer Science. Fortunately, this was the right decision because I love what I do!” Boussias said. “It has been a perfect fit to the clear thinker and analytical side of me. Over the years, I have been able to incorporate teaching in some respect through coaching, mentoring, and for several years now, sometimes delivering half-day tutorials at conferences.”

After first graduating from college, Boussias focused on gaining knowledge and expertise in her field for the next 27 years. She quickly mastered programming and data engineering, built, supported, or led implementation of various technology solutions, ultimately decided to focus even deeper in data governance & information architecture, data quality, MDM, analytics, data literacy and enterprise architecture. Now, Boussias is the Senior Director of Enterprise Architecture & Data Strategy within her company.

“We defined and got executive buy-in for the organization’s data strategy, from there established new enterprise-wide organizational capability to better manage our data; we built it from the ground up and are now diligently executing against the strategic plan. Doing this actually means we’re also driving organizational change. We’re shifting people’s mindset and how they work with each other and data day-to-day,” Boussias said.

Boussias moved from New Jersey to Florida in late 2020. She soon joined SIM Tampa Bay and HMG Strategy’s advisory board, where she often attends social and professional events to discuss the significance of women in technology.

No matter their job title or role, Boussias wants every young professional, especially women in the computer science industry, to remember:

1. Be confident and don't be afraid to try new things.

“Change is all around us, or as they say, change is the only constant. So having to try new things at some point or another is inevitable. It can be unnerving to try new things, yet it’s these times when we push past our comfort zone that we grow, we expand our understanding, we learn new things, and this builds confidence!

I would encourage anyone, women included, to ‘be comfortable being uncomfortable,’ as Peter McWilliams put it. With the high rate of change around us, this almost has to be a way of life. The reward is personal and professional growth. I would add that it’s OK to ‘fail’ trying new things. No one is perfect all the time. As long as we learn from it, then it’s not failing.”

2. Become experts in your domain, never stop learning.

“Being curious, asking questions, researching, reading, practicing, listening to understand rather than respond...they are sure ways to increase subject matter expertise. Being known as the go-to expert in an area of interest, builds credibility. Credibility builds trust. People gravitate towards folks that can add value because they ‘know their craft’ and trust their expert opinion. When this is done with humility, it can only increase the type and number of growth opportunities presented.”

3. You have a voice and a seat at the table.

“Early on in my career, I used to be quiet during meetings. I was thinking to myself, ‘I don’t know what I don’t know,’ oftentimes, I would even assume that other folks knew a lot more than they actually did. Turns out that’s not necessarily true. Any idea can have merit, and typically one idea builds on another; it’s actually this diversity of thought that leads to better solutions. Each of us brings a unique viewpoint. Experience has taught me that not speaking up is willingly foregoing the opportunity to be heard and make a difference. Don’t let gender hold you back. You have the right to sit at the table; lean in, put in the work, and go for it!”

4. Women can make a difference.

“Every voice counts, and women bring unique experiences and perspectives to the

mix. We also significantly impact the economy and the goods and services provided. Think about women's daily decisions that heavily influence our households and loved ones. Even seemingly simple decisions, like what brands we buy at the grocery store, clothes, vacation spots, healthcare... the list goes on, crossing virtually every industry. Wouldn't it be smart, then, for businesses to include women's perspectives in deciding what to invest in and how to go about it?

For several years now, businesses across verticals are going through huge transformations to stay competitive in the market. Women are natural nurturers and tend to be great collaborators. Knowing how to nurture relationships collaboratively to drive implementation engagement and overall adoption can make or break the success of any transformation project and the outcomes it aims to achieve. Perhaps this is why, as multiple studies have proven over the years, companies with a high representation of women in the executive team regularly outperform those without! The numbers don't lie. Women, especially women in leadership roles, can definitely make a difference on multiple levels, including the financial health of the business and the character of its culture."

Throughout her career, Boussias has inspired many women in IT for her exceptional leadership and passion for developing technology. Jennifer Greenman, CIO of Cancer Treatment Centers of America and Vice President of SIM Tampa Bay, feels especially moved by Boussias' drive and ambition.

Greenman commented: "I admire Dora's professional accomplishments across several industries and commitment to sharing her knowledge and talents broadly within our community. This is all the more impressive when you consider that she was born and raised abroad, arriving in the US for college and rising through hard work and exceptional aptitude. More importantly, Dora is an incredible friend and an amazing mother to her two children, who sets a shining example for all working mothers in IT."