

## Celebrates Women's History Month

Interview with Mrs. Staci Cameron HR  
Coordinator



### 1. Who are you and what is your role here at BuffSci?

**Mrs. Staci:** I am Staci Cameron, I am a wife and I have two children that I brought into this world. I also inherited a child from my husband. I have two grandchildren, one boy and one girl. I love to crochet, I love to sing, to dance. I am an avid movie watcher and reader. I am not outdoorsy, but I am a walker, I like to walk a lot. I love art, music and culture.

### 2. What has your journey in education looked like up until now (now being here with us at BuffSci)?

**Mrs. Staci:** So I have a bachelors in science from SUNY fredonia. I was a speech pathologist major and I taught for Buffalo Public for 2 ½ years as a speech teacher. A friend of mine worked at a community center and she told me about a part time job they were offering. I was looking to move out of the school because I felt like I wasn't doing what I sought out to do. I worked for the community center for 12 years, I went from being a part time program assistant and moved onto being the Director of the center. It was a long and very difficult journey, I am NOT sorry I did it and I learned so much. I moved on and started working at the Buffalo Museum, I was helping with community programs. We worked to get young high school girls interested in science (STEM). We would teach them how to run science programs and take them to community centers to help them teach the kids about science. I then went back to the community center for a bit and stayed there for a year or so. I then came to BuffSci, I worked as their Admissions Coordinator for about 5 years until you took over. I now run the BuffSci HR department.

### 3. Is there a significant event or moment that made you realize what a strong woman you are?

**Mrs. Staci:** I don't think there was one particular eye opening moment. I think it was an accumulation of things that made me realize that I was strong and resilient. A lot of things that have happened in my family that just kind of tested my character and I think that I learned young that I was capable of doing things, anything. Education is really important in my family, I have a few educators in my family. We were always celebrated for doing good in school and getting good grades. We were cheered on for actual strengths that we had. That was built in me, I may not be the prettiest, the skinniest, but I am smart. In this world, everything is about looks for women, but my family always celebrates the things that are important. Teaching us about ourselves, as people. My family helped prepare me for anything that comes my way. Of course I have had challenges and there were times I felt really beaten down, but I never really doubted my value because my family always instilled how valuable we are.

### 4. What does being a woman mean to YOU?

**Mrs. Staci:** Well, I think that being a woman means knowing your worth, being strong and resilient, knowing your own mind, and not being afraid to do what you want to do. Not being afraid to do what you have the right to do. Being a woman, it's sacred. If not for women, nothing could continue on. We obviously can't do it alone, I know that. But it's what makes us special, it's a part of who we are. Some women have a spirit that just nurtures everyone, being a woman means being strong and that you don't let people take advantage of you. You fight for what is important.



**5. Is there a special woman in your life that you would like to recognize this month? Why are they special to you?**

**Mrs. Staci:** A lot of women in my life that I had to look up to in my life. I have plenty of examples of strong independent women. My grandmothers were just amazing. My fathers mother was born in the Caribbean and moved to the Bronx. They traveled by ship and spent days on this boat to get to the states. They forged their own way, not having many people to rely on. My mothers mom was born and raised in NYC. 3The two things I can say about my grandmothers, they were strong and kind women. They did everything with their heart, they were kind to everyone. They treated everyone as if they mattered. I think that's where it all comes from, my grandmas.

**Follow up question- You mentioned your grandmothers, but I know how much your mom means to you. Tell me more about her:** My mom was strong, caring, outspoken, very outspoken, but she really cared about people, especially kids. When I was younger, growing up, my friends were always welcome. My mom was the community mom. If my friends felt like they couldn't speak to their parents, they would come find my mom and ask for her help/support. I remember when my younger sister graduated from our elementary school, she was the last one to leave that school and the teachers would still seek her out to chapartone events. She really cared about all of the kids, she embarrassed everyone's child. She didn't raise us to judge people by their race, sexuality, or economic status. She didn't teach us that way. She taught us to value people for their values. She was a hard worker, she raised 4 kids all by herself and she was always working. She was a working, single mother. I don't remember a time when my mom missed a single thing in my life, she never missed a beat. And that was my mom.