

## **Interview Assessment #2**

**Name of Professional:** Candace Palmarozzi

**Profession/Title:** Vice President of Finance & Controller

**Business/Company Name:** BNSF Railway

**Date of Interview:** 10/12/2020

My second interview was conducted with Candace Palmarozzi, a vice president of finance and controller at BNSF Railway. Going into my interview with Mrs. Palmarozzi I hoped to gain a greater understanding of how professionals in the field of finance collaborate. This interview helped me understand how careers in finance can vary greatly based on industry and what factors play into any position in finance.

The paramount takeaway from my interview with Mrs. Palmarozzi was that collaboration in the field of finance gets more important as you progress in your career. Mrs. Palmarozzi explained to me that a large part of her job is training recruits and teaching/preparing people for their career. This was great news for me because I want to be able to interact with other people as much as possible. I look forward to collaborating with many of my colleagues. One of my biggest fears going into finance is that I will be stuck in a cubicle or room all day crunching numbers with no social interaction. I want to avoid careers that would isolate me. I believe that the ability to have a greater scope of the company through working with many of its employees is supremely intriguing. I want to be knowledgeable in all aspects of operations, and working with my contemporaries would be an incredibly rewarding way to do so. I would love to be able to know the exact direction the company is going in just by working with other people. Speaking

with Mrs. Palmarozzi has given me a better idea of how I will be able to interact with a company and its employees.

Another key takeaway from my interview with Mrs. Palmarozzi was that any career in finance is largely defined by the company that you work at. For example, Mrs. Palmarozzi works at a railway company, so she is incredibly knowledgeable about the railway industry. This is something that I did not consider before my interview with Mrs. Palmarozzi. I used to believe that finance careers were mostly identical. After asking Mrs. Palmarozzi about her career and responsibilities, I realized that her career in finance is more of a subset of her career in the railroad industry. This sounds obvious, but was surprising to me because I had a false perception of what careers in finance actually were. Now that I have a greater understanding of finance it makes total sense that the company's industry would come with the job. This is especially obvious when considering the fact that every business has a finance department who's employees must be knowledgeable about the industry in order to guide the company's financial decisions and assess the company's financial status. I am glad that Mrs. Palmarozzi showed me this because it will be a massive consideration when I am searching for a job in the future. I want to ensure that I am passionate about the industry I am heading into. I want to love my job and my company. Mrs. Palmarozzi also explained to me that any career in finance will have some element of accounting in it because there will always be some level of data analysis. This has led me to consider taking accounting as a second major or minor in college. Knowledge of accounting would be incredibly useful for any career in finance and a great skill to have. Moving forward I hope to find other skills that would help me in the field of finance.

I am extremely grateful that I had the opportunity to interview Mrs. Palmarozzi and learn so much from her expertise. Mrs. Palmarozzi was incredibly kind and helpful and gave me much

to think about. I hope to learn more about interpersonal work in the field of finance and what skills would make me indispensable at any company.