2019 Global Citizen Award in partnership with RBC and the WE Organization.

The Royal Bank launched the Global Citizen award in 2016 that supports RBC’s purpose of helping communities prosper. This award recognizes top performing employees in their roles who have also displayed incredible commitment to giving their time and expertise to their communities by volunteering and leading charitable initiatives. These employees show what can be accomplished by their acts of giving.

“Just do it! Don’t even think twice! It is the most amazing experience you will ever have giving back to your community and students of all ages. There is no thinking about this” – Maria Artuso

Maria Artuso is a Global Citizen not only because of her personal involvement in the community but for her ability to mobilize and inspire others to raise their hand and volunteer as well. Maria volunteers with many different organizations annually with 141 volunteer hours in 2017 and sitting at 28 hours already in 2018. Her main focus has been with Junior Achievement (a youth financial literacy initiative) which she has worked with for over 15 years, starting in Barrie and bringing her connections with the organization to Ottawa and now to the GTR and SWO Regions. Alongside her dedication to youth and financial literacy, she LAUNCHED both the ONE NextGen and Women’s ERG and currently holds the role of Co-Chair on the Women’s. In partnership with the Women’s ERG, Maria worked closely with OCISO (Ottawa Community Immigration Services Organization) in developing a specific pilot program targeting immigrant women in the financial services industry. ONE NextGen and ONE Women’s are among the Region’s most active ERGs with connect pages reaching average daily views of 76 and 14 respectively (in comparison with Pride at 5.8 and Mosaic at 1.2) She sits on the Advisory Board of the Algonquin College Business Financial Services Program as well as a Board Member of the Carleton University Centre of Research and Education on Women & Work with The Management Certificate for Women (MCW) (a unique seven-month professional program designed for highly motivated women who wish to enhance their management, leadership skills and elevate their influence) taking her youth and women mentorship to the next generation of our workforce.

She engaged Junior Achievement with NextGen and would coordinate RBC Delivery Days in schools throughout the city. In 2015 (the year Maria got involved in Ottawa) the JA program grew by 27%! RBC Delivery Days were launched and that first year 703 students were part of the program during 3 delivery days and 20 RBC employees were engaged. The 2016-2017 numbers saw 897 students, 860 volunteer hours by 66 RBC employees. RBC Delivery Days are now a recurring event coordinated by NextGen quarterly. Her involvement with JA was so powerful that they nominated her for Top 40 under 40 with the Ottawa Business Journal and Ottawa Chamber of Commerce, which she earned in 2016! (Forty Under 40 recognizes accomplished business leaders who are under the age of 40 and give back to their community.)

Let me also recount her impressive professional resume. Holding an MBA from Dalhousie University, Maria has recently been invited to write a blog (click here for full post) for as an alumni, opening the blog up with “Continuous learning is my way of “paying it forward” – igniting in others the desire to always be better, do better.” She is open to always learning and sharing what she has learnt with those around her. At RBC Maria has held progressively more senior roles over her career path including Manager, Financial Planning, Branch Manager of the largest branch in ONE and Ottawa’s Flagship branch at Carlingwood Mall, Manager Business Performance Support in ONE Regional Office and Commercial Account Manager. In her role as Branch Manager of the Flagship her team, including partners, was 40 people, and the book was $1.1 billion consisting of 70% investments and 30% credit. She invited non-traditional partners to sales meetings and coached the team to work better together engaging Group
Advantage, Auto Finance, Commercial, and external realtor partners to support client acquisition, growth & employee development. As Manager, Financial Planning, she expanded her passion for collaboration, leading a team of 12 Financial Planners through digital enablement changes and enhancements, and increased anchors and introductions from FP-IRP partners resulting in 152 anchors totaling $63.5 Million, more than doubling previous year’s ONE RBC Collaboration success. She coached with such finesse and always knew what was going on, who was seeing who and what everyone was working on.

Maria is a motivational and InstantThanks wizard; always knowing when to send a high five to others. When looking at her InstantThanks stats she has sent 1549! To put that into perspective, most leaders you will see in the hundreds (100, 200, 300), leaders in her same role within the city sit at: 212 and 0 and our Regional Operating Officer (who was once featured in an InstantThanks brochure) is at 719 (Great job Ian!). Maria was recognized at the Regional President’s and RVP meeting by Vistance for being the Region’s Top InstantThanks User! She is the true depiction of what a mentor and coach looks like. These feelings were mutual with our Regional President Tina Sarellas and Regional Vice President Mike Haley as they awarded her the Mentor Award in 2015.

Lastly, you will see clips from her recent job announcements. You can clearly see the brand she has built for herself within RBC. She embodies the leadership model and our collective ambition in all that she does and it is with great pleasure and honor to put her name forward. As a Global Citizen Alumni I know that the experience of this award will resonate deep within the huge heart of Maria Artuso.

2018: Manager, Financial Planning, Director, Business Enablement and Performance
Maria is known for her strong collaboration and partnering skills, mentorship and personal commitment to volunteering. Maria is also deeply committed to our Employee Resource Groups (ERG) in ONE having led the launch of our Next Gen ERG and our Women’s ERG. Maria holds a Business degree from Georgian College, a Masters in Financial Services (MBA, FS) from Dalhousie University, recently achieved the Fellowship of CSI, and was awarded the prestigious title of Top 40 Under 40.

2016: Branch Manager, Manager, Financial Planning
Maria is deeply passionate about the clients and communities we serve and is consistently focused on enabling and engaging her teams to achieve their best.

2014: Regional Office, Branch Manager:
Maria provided leadership and support with a number of high profile initiatives here in ONE. These initiatives included our Mobile Banking Strategy, Next Gen, Mentoring Strategy, Technology Strategy, and the Boston Consulting Group Commercial Financial Services Pilots. Maria has also been an active mentor to colleagues across the region, as well as an active volunteer with organizations such as Junior Achievement, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Christie Lake Kids and United Way to name a few.

Additional details of the entire experience:

https://www.we.org/