Sharon Gordon ‘89, one of 2012’s NJBIZ’s Best 50 Women in Business, is leading the way for women in the field of accounting. In 2004, Sharon became a Partner, one of the first women to become a partner of CohnReznick, the 11th largest accounting firm in the country. She provides accounting, audit and tax advisory services to both private and public companies with specific industry expertise in construction and real estate. In 2006, the New Jersey Real Estate Journal named Sharon one of the Top Executive Women in Real Estate.

Sharon’s responsibilities at CohnReznick also extend into building relations within the company. Sharon facilitates a mentoring network, soliciting senior colleagues to offer advice and help new employees and interns how to develop professionally. Sharon explained, “Mentoring is a huge part of the job now. We encourage our staff to mentor throughout their careers.”

Sharon realized the importance of mentors while pursuing a Bachelors degree in Business and Accounting at Ramapo College. While taking a challenging course in accounting, Sharon became skeptical of her future in this field. However, accounting professor and mentor, Professor Ray Rigoli saw Sharon’s potential and encouraged her to persevere. With Rigoli’s guidance and support, Sharon overcame challenges and found great success at Ramapo. Since graduating, Sharon’s relationship with Rigoli has transformed into a long-lasting friendship.

To further strengthen the sense of community at CohnReznick, Sharon leads the firm’s, WomenCAN: the Collaborative Advocacy Network for women, as its co-director. WomenCAN serves as a supportive organization for its female employees. In WomenCAN, participants hold discussion panels and information sessions to help them grow professionally and personally. Through WomenCAN and mentorship programs, Sharon strives to create a positive work environment for her colleagues.

Sharon is grateful for her experiences at Ramapo, and feels Ramapo prepared her for her career today. When looking for prospective new-hires and interns, she often seeks students from Ramapo College. Sharon expresses, “Ramapo always has a strong group of interns that attain positions here. When students graduate from Ramapo, they are well prepared for the professional world. I am absolutely proud of where I come from.”

Sharon further explained, “To be successful at CohnReznick, you need to be outgoing, personable, well-educated, open, not self-serving, and take a team approach. You want to be an individual, but you also have to work as a team.” Sharon had the opportunity to experience, develop, and strengthen these attributes while at Ramapo, which she says has contributed to her advancement and success at the firm.

Over the years Sharon has maintained a strong relationship with Ramapo College. She recently became a member of the Anisfield School of Business Alumni Advisory Board. An enthusiastic golfer, Sharon continues to support the college, having participated in the Ramapo College Foundation’s 26 Annual Golf Outing this past July. CohnReznick was also a sponsor at this prestigious annual fundraising event.

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