

BY TRICIA JORDAN
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SPOTLIGHT ON: TRICIA JORDAN THE PIVOT I DIDN'T SEE COMING – AND DIDN'T KNOW I NEEDED



2020... Hearing that year brings up memories for every person who lived through it. Sad, scared, frustrated, angry, resilient, hopeful—these are just a few of the emotions that come to mind when I think of 2020.

When COVID hit, it did more than upend the world—it ended an 18-year chapter of my professional life. Suddenly, the job that had defined me for nearly two decades was gone. I was faced with a decision: accept an alternate role that I knew wouldn't challenge me or take a leap into the unknown.

It felt like being kicked out of the nest—scary, unplanned, and disorienting. I hadn't interviewed for a job in almost 20 years. Where would I even begin? What did I want to do? It was a time of deep self-doubt and self-discovery.

With a lot of soul searching—and the unwavering support of my family and friends—I chose to leap. At 39, I began a brand-new career focused solely on Human Resources. It was daunting, but it felt right because of my strong foundation and experience. My new role offered growth, development, and daily opportunities to learn. For the first time in a long time, I felt like I was exactly where I was supposed to be.

Still, I couldn't shake the imposter syndrome. As someone who wasn't afforded the opportunity to graduate from college, I often questioned whether I truly belonged—especially in rooms full of polished résumés and degrees. But I reminded myself that experience, grit, and heart matter just as much as any credential.

Over the past five years, Moore & Van Allen has given me opportunities I never imagined. Being a part of this HR Team has taught me many lessons and afforded me numerous opportunities both personally and professionally. However, MVA selecting me to be a part of the Emerging Business Leaders Cohort 13 has been a milestone unlike any other. I wasn't familiar with the program or the organization when I was approached—but once again, I found myself at a crossroads, asking: Am I up for the challenge?

The answer was yes.

Saying yes meant stretching beyond my comfort zone and connecting with new, inspiring leaders. It reminded me that growth often starts with discomfort—and that sometimes, the push we need doesn't come gently. At each session of the EBL, I introduce myself to someone new. That may sound simple, but it doesn't come naturally to me. Still, I've met some incredible individuals this year through the program and heard from some of the most inspiring leaders in our city. As a native of Charlotte, this experience has given me access to parts of the city I never would have been exposed to before. I am truly grateful for this experience.

I never would have had these opportunities—or met so many thought-provoking people—if I had been too scared to try something new.

I may not have planned this path, but I'm incredibly grateful for where it's taken me. And I hope my story reminds others that it's never too late to bet on yourself—even if you don't check every traditional box.

Tricia Jordan is a human resources generalist at Moore & Van Allen PLLC. You can connect with Tricia [on LinkedIn](#).