

The Pat Schuler Kick Butt Award

Career Directors International

Nominee: Nickquolette Barrett, iRock Resumes

Nominated by: Kari Solomon, Aspire Resumes

Pat Schuler sounds like an amazing human and someone I would have liked to know. This award is such a wonderful tribute to someone who has inspired excellence in so many other career professionals—no wonder we have such an amazing community! I met Nickquolette Barrett earlier this year by phone. But I didn't have to know to her long to witness how she embodies the ideals of the Pat Schuler Kick Butt Award.

1. Fearless in creating and innovating within the industry and/or the individual business.

I reached out to Nickquolette following the murder of George Floyd. I was a white woman reaching out to a black colleague I had never met before, wanting to do something, anything. Nickquolette could have very easily dismissed me or told me 'this wasn't the time,' but she took my call. We talked about what we as career professionals could do. Nickquolette told me about CDI and how she was working with the organization to facilitate discussions on workplace bias and how we, as career professionals, could address systemic racism in the workplace. As we spoke, her passion and determination really stood out.

As business owners it is often easier to placate or take a path that's the least disruptive out of fear of putting off clients or colleagues. Nickquolette showed fearlessness in taking the lead and by being willing to push colleagues to talk about and address such an emotionally-charged subject.

Additionally, Nickquolette was recognized in 2020 by CDI with an Honorable Mention, International Innovators, for her iRockS.T.A.R interview method. And her live shows demonstrate that she's a trail blazer when it comes to using the latest platforms.

2. High integrity in communicating with others, customers, peers, colleagues, and on social media.

Nickquolette was instrumental in making the Career Practitioners Striving to Eradicate Workplace Bias panel discussions happen. She, along with the other panelists, created an environment where respectful discussion amongst colleagues was possible.

If you've ever had an interaction with Nickquolette, you probably left it feeling really good. She exudes positivity, and that shows through in both her interpersonal communication and her more public interactions. Her live shows not only reflect her personality and brand, but also show she's willing to explore new methodologies and platforms, and not just settle for how things have always been done.

3. Life-long commitment to learning demonstrated through personal stretch to pursue additional training in new areas.

In our first conversation, I learned that Nickquolette was not only the owner of a resume writing business, she also had a corporate job. She told me about how she was stepping into being CEO of her own business and actively pursuing ways to invest in herself and in her company. Her enthusiasm and desire to find ways of being a better entrepreneur inspired me to evaluate my own goals and invest in my business (one way was by joining CDI upon Nickquolette's recommendation).

4. Focus on giving back through industry contributions such as industry committee participation, mentorship, or article contribution.

I have only known Nickquolette Barrett since June of this year, but I've come to learn she is a published author, a speaker and trainer for new resume writers with the Society of Elite Resume Writers and, a former board member of the NRWA (2019).

In addition to spearheading the discussions that made it possible for CDI to present the Career Practitioners Striving to Eradicate Workplace Bias panel discussion, Nickquolette initiated diversity and inclusion discussions with two other organizations (NRWA and Career Thought Leaders).

On a personal note, while I have been a professional resume writer since 2008, I have only recently focused on the business of it. Nickquolette has served as an essential resource and has been very willing to share her experience with me.

5. Maintain active CDI membership.

Nickquolette Barrett has been a CDI member since 2017.

Though I didn't get to know Pat Schuler, it seems her legacy was how she inspired others to simply be better: Better career professionals, better colleagues, better humans. I don't know anyone more deserving of this recognition than Nickquolette Barrett.