

## D-backs' first female minor league trainer learned the ropes at MCC

It is always a big deal when a former Mesa Community College Thunderbird has success at that level and is able to move up to the next level, or "The Big Leagues."

For Kelly Boyce, she has taken the first step towards that big-league dream.

Boyce has been hired as minor league athletic trainer for the Arizona Diamondbacks Rookie League Team. The AZL Diamondbacks consist mostly of first-year players that get drafted in June; they play their games against other AZL teams around the Valley.



"This has been my dream job for a long time," said Boyce. "The Diamondbacks are an amazing organization and I can't say enough good things about the staff and athletes. They have been incredibly welcoming, and I'm beyond excited to be a part of an organization that cares about their athletes and co-workers as much as they do."

Not only is Boyce chasing her dreams but she is the first female hired on the Sports Medicine and Performance Team for the Diamondbacks in their 18 year history, at any level.

"It was a no-brainer to hire Kelly," said Kyle Torgerson, minor league medical coordinator for the Diamondbacks.

"We are excited for her to be part of our sports medicine team and the potential she has to move up through the system to higher levels."

Jane McManus, a writer for espnW.com, wrote an article in 2014 about female athletic trainers making strides in professional sports.

"Even though women are now a majority in the industry—a result of women coming into the business during the past decade—they hold just a few of the most lucrative jobs," wrote McManus.

Boyce shares many of the same thoughts as the very first female athletic trainer hired at the

professional level, Sue Falsone, about being a female hired in the professional ranks.

Falsone defines real change as something that's not gender-specific.

"It's ironic that people think that the change is about me being a woman, and that's not really the change," she said. "It's about us as a medical staff looking at new and innovative ways to deal with injuries. That's what the change is going to be," said Falsone.

"I feel like I am going to fit in well," said Boyce. "Everyone makes a big deal about me being a female getting hired but I truly just feel like one of the guys doing my job, and they all treat me that way. I feel like I have the best job in the

world."

While Boyce was attending A.T. Still University for her master's degree, Ken Crenshaw, head athletic trainer for the Arizona Diamondbacks, spoke to the athletic trainers there.

That was the first contact Boyce had made with the organization. Through the help of Crenshaw, Boyce interned with the Diamondbacks last summer during extended Spring Training at Salt River Fields. So when the AZL Rookie League position opened up, Crenshaw extended the invitation to Boyce to apply for the job.

"We had Kelly as an intern last summer and she proved herself to be a very driven individual," said Torgerson.

While at Mesa, Boyce primarily worked with the women's volleyball program in the fall and the baseball program in the spring.

Said Boyce:

Boyce will finish up the Mesa baseball season and once the season is complete, she will immediately begin her position with the Arizona Diamondbacks.

"The relationships I have gained with my fellow athletic trainers, athletes and coaches—those are the things that will stick with me forever, so thank you to everyone at MCC," said Boyce.

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