

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

RNDC proudly celebrates Black History Month, a time to acknowledge the rich culture and achievements of Blacks/African Americans. We have an ongoing commitment to a culture of inclusion, where diversity is celebrated and where every person can be her or his authentic self. RNDC truly values the unique perspectives, experiences, and contributions of our diverse associates, communities, and business partners.

Name: Demetria Riley

Job Role: Corporate Manager, HRIS

Work Location: Atlanta, GA



Why is Black History Month important to you?

Black History Month is important to me because year over year it provides a spotlight for the world to see the greatness that I experience in the Black culture daily.

I am lucky to live in Atlanta where the Black experience is immersed into our daily lives, yet I understand that the rest of the world does not get that same view.

Atlanta is the epicenter of what has been coined as “Black Excellence”. There aren't too many cities where you can experience such an abundance of black entrepreneurs, musicians, c-suite executives, scientist, doctors and lawyers. That experience is undeniably important to my life.



What would you like our RNDC/YMCO family to know about you? Briefly, tell us your story – personal and/or professional. What makes you uniquely you?

I'm a wife to a loving and supportive husband and mother to two handsome baby boys.

I come from a working-class family. My dad was as truck driver and my mom worked for the same company for 43 years -- eventually working her way up to a management role. Being the oldest of three siblings I felt the pressure

to be a role model. I was the first person in my immediate family to earn a 4-year degree, graduating from Georgia State University with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration and dual major in Computer Information Systems and Human Resources Administration.

I've always had an interest in technology and remember writing DOS commands (yes DOS commands) on the first computer my mom purchased for us, which also had a Dot Matrix printer. I'm really dating myself :-)

I've always had an interest in Human Resources, yet I wanted to set myself apart in this broad HR space and focus more on the technology aspects to fuel my personal interests. I've been fortunate to work in a space that I'm passionate about for more than 15 years, focusing on Human Resources **and** Technology.

My sister has labeled me as an introverted extrovert, that's why this role fits my personality well. I am the type of person that likes to show up and take ownership when needed, yet I also enjoy working behind the scenes to get the job done.

To tie in with our 2020 Black History Month theme, tell us about any family traditions or fond memories that involve music. Why is music important to the Black Experience?

Music has always been a staple in my life. I can remember taking Saturday trips to the store to purchase a \$1 vinyl record. Then we would come home and play it on repeat as my mom, sister and I cleaned the house. I appreciate the fact that throughout my lifetime I have been fortunate enough to see the music platform transition from the 8-track player to Apple Music!

So many of my peers and family have the same story. Music is the language that promotes unity. It is the language that everyone speaks, and it is the language that is at the core of Black culture.



Tell us about your taste in music. What is your favorite music genre? Who are your favorite music artists, past or present? Why?

I love most music, yet R&B (classic R&B) and gospel are my go-to genres. I still have my Michael Jackson Thriller album! I was a fan.

What is your favorite adult beverage?

I occasionally enjoy a crisp glass of red wine. I prefer the sweeter reds but love a good Merlot.