



WINLPG

Women in LPG



Cynthia T. Hamlet

**Director
Amerigas
USA**

“WOMEN HAVE COME A LONG WAY IN OUR INDUSTRY. I’M ALWAYS PROUD TO SEE A WOMAN IN A STRONG LEADERSHIP POSITION BUT I’M EQUALLY PROUD WHEN I SEE A WOMAN COME IN AS A DRIVER OR A TECH. I JUST WANT TO SAY YOU GO GIRL!!! THE PEOPLE IN THE PROPANE INDUSTRY ARE SALT OF THE EARTH PEOPLE AND THEY MAKE OUR JOBS FUN!”

Cynthia T. Hamlet

Meet the Role Models

WINLPG Role Models introduce successful individuals in the LPG industry and gives an insight into their career path, their challenges and their advice to fellow WINLPG members.

I went to Virginia Commonwealth University (part-time) while I worked full-time at Medical College of VA to get my undergrad BS in Accounting. (Took 13 years at night). Then I sat for the CPA exam and passed first try. I entered the propane industry as a Senior Financial Accountant with Columbia Propane in 1995. Was promoted to Manager of General Accounting (Consolidations) in 1999. While with Columbia, I went to Averett University and obtained my MBA. In 2001 AmeriGas purchased Columbia. I came onboard as Financial Analyst Manager for the Mid-Atlantic Region in 2001 and in 2003 went into operations as a Market Manager (now known as an Area Director). I’m responsible for 13 stores in Central and Southeast Virginia and Northeast North Carolina.

“ I support WINLPG because I’m interested to see more female senior leaders in a predominately male industry. The women we have currently in senior roles do quite well. They manage differently and get excellent results. They add to the diversity of the workforce and that’s always a good dynamic to have.”

Cynthia T. Hamlet

SIX KEY QUESTIONS

What is your goal today?

I'm looking to work about another 10 years. I'd like to help as many women leaders to make a difference in their life as possible. I'll gladly help anyone but I'd specifically like to see more women in management roles and anything I can do to help them realize their goals and help them develop, I'll gladly do so. I also never want to stop learning myself so personal development has always been a goal and continues to be.

Describe your Pathway?

I went to Virginia Commonwealth University (part-time) while I worked full-time at Medical College of VA to get my undergrad BS in Accounting. (Took 13 years at night). Then I sat for the CPA exam and passed first try. I entered the propane industry as a Senior Financial Accountant with Columbia Propane in 1995. Was promoted to Manager of General Accounting (Consolidations) in 1999. While with Columbia, I went to Averett University and obtained my MBA. In 2001 AmeriGas purchased Columbia. I came onboard as Financial Analyst Manager for the Mid-Atlantic Region in 2001 and in 2003 went into operations as a Market Manager (now known as an Area Director. I'm over 13 stores in Central and Southeast Virginia and Northeast North Carolina.

Did you face any specific challenges?

I think all women face the challenge of having to have more qualifications for an equal job in all industries. I do feel this is getting better as women in leadership become more prevalent and diversity is starting to be valued at higher levels of organizations. Quite honestly these challenges only make us stronger as it forces us to develop ourselves more and that's a positive thing!

Did you have a mentor and how did this help?

My Dad was my mentor. He taught me to be independent. I guess he wanted a boy because he taught me to be able to do things a boy would want to learn (Construction and technical stuff) and I learned to hold my own in situations where the workforce was also predominately male. Worked summers with him on jobs to earn money for things I wanted. I learned my work ethic from him. I've had other Mentors through the years as well but never anything official just my admiration of them caused me to look at them as a mentor and learn from them.

What does leadership mean to you?

A good leader knows how to treat people and in turn gets phenomenal things done with the help of others. You cannot do everything alone. A leader gives others credit where credit is due. A confident leader hires people that are smarter than they are and everyone on their team learns from each other. A good leader doesn't hold tightly to information but mentors and shares knowledge with others. By doing so they show their value as a leader.

What three pieces of advice would you give to someone embarking on their career with LPG?

1. Network with others.
2. Educate yourself formally and informally.
3. Step outside of your comfort zone and be comfortable being uncomfortable.



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Women in LPG Global Network

www.wlpga.org