

TRANSCRIPT: MARK A. PATRANELLA INTERVIEW

Mark A. Patranella · Manager at Blue Bell

TRANSCRIPT

An interview with Mr. Mark A. Patranella, Manager of Purchasing and Receiving for Blue Bell. Patranella is a 1982 graduate from Texas A&M and an inducted member for the Tyrus R. Timm Honor Registry.

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Mr. Mark Patranella | Transcript
Tyurus R. Timm Honor Registry | Department of Agricultural Economics | Texas A&M University

Could you please introduce yourself and tell us a little about your career?

My name is Mark Patranella. I work for Blue Bell Creameries. I've been there 30 years. I'm the purchasing and receiving manager. I oversee all the buying for the company. We have a group of purchasers. We have four plants, 50 of distribution facilities, and we buy all the items over the manufacturing process.

Could you tell us a little about your experiences at Texas A&M?

I was from Brazos county, so grew up an Aggie, been going to Aggie sporting events my whole life. When we, growing up we never, there's never an option of where else we were going, we were all going to A&M. I was in the College of Agriculture, in AgEco and enjoyed it immensely. I met a lot of nice folks there, a lot of friends. A lot of the concepts that I learned there in AgEco I still use today in my career, and it was very positive experience.

What experiences at Texas A&M do you value most?

I think A&M just gives you a, a foundation to, to work on, and I say it's a conservative university with conservative principles that will serve you well later in life. I think, you know, especially being involved in the economics, it, it prepares you for analyzing things about you and just gives you a good foundation.

Can you describe your early career?

I started in purchasing from the beginning. That's where, I was interviewed on campus and, and got a job as purchasing agent. And Blue Bell is, you know, a lot like a lot of companies, you know, you have to do a little bit of everything and that's, and that's what we, that's what we did. And there's no this is my job, that's your job. You do whatever is necessary and whatever needs to be done. And the company when I started 30 years ago was, was much smaller, and wherever we need help, we helped out whether it was in production, if they needed some help we would go, we would go and help them there. And it hasn't a lot changed. I mean we're, we're not big on titles, and we're just on getting the job done. And I guess, early on we, you know, there was only my, the manager and myself, that was just two of us, and so we bought everything and now, you know, we have, including myself, we have seven purchasing agents and three buyers. So, it's grown quite a bit.

In your opinion, what does it take to achieve success?

I think you have to be willing to, to work hard, not, not be afraid of hard work. You need to continue to challenge yourself, always try to improve. And I would say you know live by the golden rule and, and do unto others as you would have them do unto you. And, and I think you go long ways with that.

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What advice do you have for student of Agricultural Economics?

I would say take a, you know, when you're at A&M, take advantage of all the opportunities that you have. Get involved as much as you can, get involved in extracurricular activities, leadership positions, and network with people, and, and take advantage of all they have to offer. It can only serve you well.

How were you able to manage time for family, work and other priorities throughout your career?

I think you have to, you have to set priorities on what's important to you. Fortunately, you know, at Blue Bell, I mean we work, we don't work 40 hours. We were normally, our days are longer than that. But they understand, you know, you have a family life, and they want you involved with that. And very community-oriented company, they want you involved in the community. They want you coaching Little League. They want you making a difference out in the community. And they allow time for that. So, I think you just have to set priorities. Obviously, you know that your job is extremely important but just as important is your family and your community, and you have to devote yourself to those also.

What are your thoughts on being selected to the Tyrus R. Timm Honor Registry?

I considered it a extreme honor, one that was unexpected, and one that I certainly feel privileged to be a part of. And, you know, it's a very select group. And I'm just very honored to be part of it.

Thanks for watching!

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