

Boise Young Professionals – b|wise Facilitator Introduction



Barb Bowman
VP Member Services
Boise Metro Chamber

As V.P. of the Member Services Division for the Boise Metro Chamber of Commerce, I am responsible for managing and providing strategic support for the Sales, Communications, Marketing, Programs, Events, and the Small Business Divisions. In addition, I manage projects and programs critical to ensuring value for all chamber members. Prior to this role I developed and managed the Small Business Division and Leadership Boise/Leadership Boise Academy programs.

Prior to working for the Chamber of Commerce I was the Business/Education Manager for Southwest Idaho School, responsible for recruiting and maintaining business involvement to support school and work-based learning. In addition, I was the Director of Professional Services for the Boise satellite office of Lee Hecht Harrison an international career management firm. I have a degree in Guidance & Counseling, specializing in corporate career development from Mesa State College.

Born and raised in Minnesota, I have lived in the West, more specifically, Colorado and Idaho for 26 years. I have been married for 28 years and have two children, a son, 22 years, and a daughter, 20 years. I had the privilege of staying home as a full-time mom when the kids were young but eventually re-entered the workforce. My first-love nonprofit is an organization called Young Life of which I have volunteered for over 30 years.

Leadership Definition	I believe leadership is not appointed but earned through high integrity, authenticity, doing right by people, and leveraging one’s natural strengths.
Passion	I am passionate about effective communications, servant leadership, and investing in young people who will be the leaders of the future.
Most important lesson early on in my career	One of the most important lessons I learned early in my career is that fulfillment doesn’t come from earning money but finding a job fit that energizes me and makes a difference in the community I live in.
What I wish I had learned early in my career	I think a mentor would have been helpful in helping me come to terms with understanding my own personal behaviors and how they affect the way I show up in the working world.
What I hope to gain from this experience	I would love to have my group focus on career exploration and be comprised of young professionals who are still trying to “figure out what they will do when they grow up”. I get pretty pumped and motivated when I help facilitate growth and change in another person’s life. It must be the coaching/counseling nature to my personality. The longer I work in business and manage people the more I appreciate the counseling background I have. I would really enjoy helping young professionals navigate their careers!
Preferred meeting times for b wise group	We have great meeting space here at the Boise Chamber Offices so I can offer that up and it would want to consult the members to determine timing. I am thinking off hand that 4:00 – 5:30 p.m. time frame would work so members could get on with their evening plans, but I am open!
Facilitation style	I am looking forward to being transparent and facilitating open and honest discussion in a respectful environmental. I have learned so much in my career about managing projects and people which go hand-in-hand in building a successful business. I am all about helping people to self-discover through probing questions and group think. I imagine that we would have a predetermined topic for each session and some open-ended questions distributed before the meeting. We would head in that direction but be flexible enough to accommodate going with the flow.