

## **Patti Gerhauser**

Women Veterans Program Coordinator, Veterans Leadership Program



**Patti Gerhauser** began her professional career in 2006 working as an HIV/AIDS educator in Ghana, Africa. There she developed a community education program, and performed community outreach in both rural and urban settings.

Following her work in Ghana, Patti served in the U.S. Navy, from 2007-2011, as an AEGIS spy radar tactician on the USS Gettysburg. She spent two years on sea service and deployed to the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Aden. In the Gulf of Aden, she served with the United Nations' Combined Task Force 151, which led anti-piracy efforts in 2009.

After the military, Patti attended Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts

degree in Sociology and a Master of Arts degree in Intercultural Communication and Conflict Management.

After graduating in 2015, Patti went to work in Erie, PA as a facilitator for a community-based, anti-poverty program called "Getting Ahead." She also worked for the Erie School District, teaching conflict management and conflict resolution skills to middle and high school aged youth.

In 2017, Patti moved to the Pittsburgh area with her husband, Ryan, and two children, Aurora and Connor. There she worked in Pittsburgh's Hazelwood community as a Community Organizer for the Hazelwood Initiative. As an Organizer, she worked with community members and external partners to create and implement a comprehensive community development plan. She also led advocacy efforts for policies and practices that would prevent displacement of long-time Hazelwood residents.

Patti began in her current role, as the Women Veterans Program Coordinator at Veterans Leadership Program, in February 2019. In this position, she leads outreach and advocacy efforts, coordinates community partnerships and events, and manages social and supportive programming for Women Veterans in western Pennsylvania. She also currently co-hosts a podcast - alongside Army Veteran, Aryanna Hunter - entitled, "What A Veteran Looks Like."

## **Aryanna Hunter**

Director, University of Pittsburgh - Office of Veterans Services



**Aryanna Hunter:** Iraq War veteran, mom of three, author, podcaster, and veteran advocate.

Growing up the youngest of ten children in a family that lived below the poverty line, finding a way to make things happen was just a part of life. In 2001, at the age of 18 and answering the call of her nation, Aryanna enlisted with the United States Army just weeks after the terror attacks of 9/11 and served with the XVIII Airborne Corp on the front-lines during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Aryanna spent more than a decade as a Global IT Project Manager for multiple Fortune 500 companies and is also founder of the non-profit American Nutritional Security that works to better nutrition in communities as a matter of national security.

In 2017, Aryanna decided to take on the political establishment and ran for Lt. Governor against an incumbent. Aryanna would later end her own campaign and turn her attention to co-founding a political action committee with a mission to level the financial playing field in politics, called Fight the Power PAC.

Holding a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration, an MBA, and a Master's degree in Public Administration, Aryanna is now pursuing her Ph.D. in Community Engagement at Point Park University.

Currently, Aryanna co-hosts a new veteran centric podcast called "What A Veteran Looks Like" with Navy veteran Patti Gerhauser and is the Director in the Office of Veterans Services for the University of Pittsburgh.

Aryanna is a Defense Council member of the Truman National Security Project, an Oxfam Sisters on the Planet Ambassador, and belongs to many civic organizations to include the NAACP, VFW, The Mission Continues, and others. She resides in Murrysville, Pennsylvania with her three children Donovan, Camryn, and Atlee.