

SUCCESS

Amped Coffee customers honor employee Sara Muchnij

By Christina Fuoco-Karasinski

Dancing Toward

Boulder High School graduate Sara Muchnij has touched people with her dancing and her kindness. (Photo courtesy Sara Muchnij)

Sara Muchnij knows customer service.

As a shift lead at Amped Coffee in Anthem, Muchnij remembered her customers' stories—their likes, dislikes, family members and milestones.

Because of her attentiveness, Muchnij's customers named her employee of the year.

"One of the crazy things about Sara is her memory," says Keith Walashek, who owns Amped Coffee with his wife, Jeanine.

"Not only does she learn people's names, but their grandkids' names (and) what they have planned for the next week. It's amazing how she gets to know her customers."

Muchnij, who has worked for Amped Coffee since September 2018, is thrilled about the award.

"I was extremely shocked," says the Phoenix native, who's 21. "We were out on a holiday employee dinner and they give these funny awards. After everybody got there, I got mine. They announced it at the party, and they gave me a flower crown and a whole bunch of cute stuff."

She calls Amped Coffee her favorite workplace.

"Getting to know the people and everyone in the community is so great," she says. "I have regulars to tell me their stories; they talk about their trips and talk about so many things."

You really learn about the community. I hear about their many life experiences before even mov-

ing to Anthem."

Muchnij temporarily left her job at Amped Coffee to dance with the Utah Ballroom Dance Company. She'll be on the road with it until May.

"We put on shows that are similar to 'Dancing with the Stars Live,' where we travel around and teach local people to dance and put on a show," she says. "The second half is our pro show. We do a 30-minute show. I just joined the company on Christmas Day."

The 2016 Boulder Creek High School graduate has been dancing since she was 3, when she performed at the Anthem Community Center. She grew up dancing at Dynamic Motion Dance Academy, where she also teaches.

Muchnij is trained in ballet, pointe, tap, jazz, hip-hop, lyrical, contemporary, modern, ballroom, musical theater and acrobatics. She was on the Dynamic Motion Dance Academy competition team for about 10 years and now choreographs for it.

During her years at Boulder Creek, Muchnij choreographed many dances for different levels of students and continues to teach at Boulder Creek as a guest choreographer.

She earned an associate's degree in arts from Paradise Valley Community College.

"My goal is to be a backup dancer for Justin Timberlake, or be in movies like 'La La Land,' or dance on cruise ships and Broadway," she says. "Before I got here, I was trained in everything but ballroom. They gave us training for a good amount of time."

Jeanine Walashek is looking forward to Muchnij's return.

"She's doing what she wants to do, and we love her for it," she says. "We're just extremely lucky to have her and fortunate to have her. We really appreciate her attention to detail and love for our customers. All of that reflects on our company. We have a deep appreciation for what she's done." ■



Amped Coffee Company

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