NEWS RELEASE

Just go for it

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American Airlines team members are what make the airline great. As the airline fosters a company culture that celebrates diversity and inclusion, we want to recognize the contributions our female team members make every day to support both customers and fellow team members on life's journey.

Today, on International Women's Day, we highlight Mary Ann Gelvez, the first Operations Manager for American Airlines in Colombia and Ecuador, for her dedication to making American a great place to work for her entire team.

Mary Ann said that working in aviation has brought her great joy and the opportunity to meet countless people and see incredible places. When supporting a 24/7/365 operation, the hours can be long and challenging, but nothing outweighs the sense of accomplishment when working toward the same goal with her team.

Throughout her 37 years with the airline, Mary Ann has cultivated the necessary skills to oversee eight stations in South America — six in Colombia: Bogotá, Cali, Medellin, Barranquilla, Cartagena and Pereira, and two in Ecuador: Quito and Guayaquil.

Mary Ann began her career with American in 1982 as a ticket agent, later becoming a Premium Customer Services agent at the Admirals Club in Bogotá. Thanks to her hard work and dedication, she became the manager of the club. Mary Ann constantly seeks to expand her experience and opportunities. She returned to the operation as manager of the Bogotá station to gain insight into the operation. As she gained experience, she was promoted to operations manager of all of Colombia, and, a few years later, added oversight of the operations in Ecuador.

She said her focus is to ensure the airline's operations at her stations are carried out with total efficiency, safety and care. "Making sure that every plane that takes off is safe is an awesome responsibility, and we feel that every day as we care for our customers, our team members and our company," Mary Ann said.

In the years since Mary Ann joined American she’s seen more and more women take on leadership roles with grace and tenacity. Mary Ann said she knows that women have opportunity in all areas of the business at American. "It doesn't matter if you are a man or a woman, you can go as far as you want," she said. "We have the necessary tools to grow every day in all aspects of our professional career within the airline regardless of our gender.”

Mary Ann’s advice to women looking to start a career in aviation is simple, "You have to be willing to work hard and realize your life might not look the same as those around you. But I say that if you’re passionate, just go for it.”

Mary Ann Gelvez, Operations Manager