

# CREATING WORLD-CLASS CONTENT

## **GRANDMASTERS TEAM MEMBER SPOTLIGHT**

### Meredith Thomas, CDM, Editor



Manager and Editor, bringing more than a decade of experience in content strategy, development, and editorial management. She specializes in collaborating with clients in higher education and technology, ensuring the creation of high-quality, engaging, and impactful content. With a strong background in program and

project management, Meredith thrives in overseeing content initiatives from inception to execution, delivering exceptional results that align with client goals.

She holds a Master of Arts (MA) from Chapman University and leverages her academic foundation to drive strategic content solutions that resonate with diverse audiences. Outside of work, Meredith dedicates much of her time to her children's sporting events, volunteering on parent booster boards, and enjoying time on the water with her family.

"Celebrating 11 years of excellence! Meredith has been an invaluable part of our team—always reliable, delivering outstanding work with efficiency and precision. She meets every deadline with ease and is truly a pleasure to work with. We are grateful for her dedication and talent and look forward to many more years of working with Meredith!" - Lisa Kreissler, Client Director, Founder

#### FROM GRANDMASTERS TO AWS

Ataberk (Berky) Yildiz was an intern at
GrandMasters and quickly became our
Business Operations Specialist before
heading to the University of Washington to
pursue his Bachelor's degree in Computer
Science. We are thrilled to share that Berky
has recently accepted an offer to join AWS
as a Software Development Engineer Intern

this Summer! We couldn't be more excited for him and look forward to seeing all he accomplishes in the future!

# OUR TEAM'S DRIVE TO CONTINUED LEARNING

At GrandMasters, our team is always striving to expand our knowledge and skills to stay on top of our game. We're especially proud to celebrate two of our team members who have recently earned new certifications, further strengthening our expertise and commitment to excellence!

#### Jess Bartel's NEW certification:

- Intuit Bookkeeper

#### Allen Derheim's NEW certifications:

- Microsoft Azure Fundamentals
- Microsoft Security, Compliance, and Identity Fundamentals
- Microsoft Azure Data Fundamentals

Congratulations to Allen and Jess on these well-deserved achievements!





# **GRANDMASTERS GIVING**



# Supporting Youth in Foster Care Through Treehouse

This quarter, we are proud to support Treehouse, the only nonprofit in Washington State dedicated to advancing educational equity and access for youth in foster care. Since 1988, Treehouse has walked alongside young people, investing in their dreams and partnering with communities to transform the systems holding them back.

In their 2022-2023 program year alone, Treehouse directly served 6,758 youth and young adults, distributed over 91,700 essential items like clothing, books, and backpacks, and celebrated 171 students who completed high school or earned their GED.

We're honored to contribute to their incredible work and to stand with youth in foster care as they pursue brighter futures.

### **GrandMasters Contributes to Education for the Building Industry!**



GrandMasters was proud to partner with Home Builders Institute (HBI) on enhanced content for HBI's instructor and student resources. HBI is a leading nonprofit provider of trade skills training and education for the building industry. Their mission is to train, credential, and place students in jobs within the construction industry, empowering them to build solid career paths and positively transform their lives.

This collaborative project introduced a refreshed introductory level and enhanced the foundational level to better support students as they transition into construction careers. Beyond content development, GrandMasters assisted HBI in implementing tools and techniques to create more accessible educational materials. We are grateful for this partnership and honored to have contributed our expertise to support new learners as they enter the industry.

# **SME HIGHLIGHT**

Julian Sharp consistently stays ahead of the curve with the latest Microsoft Dynamics 365 and Copilot updates. Many SMEs credit him for helping them get their start as MCTs, thanks to his guidance and unwavering support. Known for his willingness to help, his commitment to delivering exceptional work, and his insightful feedback, Julian is a trusted resource no matter the project. We love working with Julian and always appreciate his deep expertise and collaborative spirit!

# **GRANDMASTERS LEADERSHIP TEAM UPDATE**



Jess Bartel and Lisa Kreissler are excited to be attending the Women Business Enterprise National Council's (WBENC) National Conference this June in New Orleans! This year's theme, ACCELERATE, is all about driving growth, expanding networks, and making a lasting impact. Each year, this dynamic conference brings together thousands of women entrepreneurs, corporate leaders, and industry experts for an unparalleled experience. This year, the conference will feature an unrivaled expo of certified women-owned businesses, productive meet and greets, educational programming, inspiring speakers, demo stations, and much more! Networking will be at the heart of the experience, with Regional Partner Organization (RPO) Meetups fostering connections across industries. And of course, no WBENC conference would be complete without celebrations, fun, and even some karaoke!



"Working with Jess is like a smooth jazz session—just groovy!"

A GrandMasters SME



"Lisa Kreissler, thanks for finding and facilitating this work. It was really interesting and a great project to work on! And Samantha Haney, as always, you're the best PM I know, and it was fun working together again!"

- A **GrandMasters** CDM

# GRANDMASTERS KUDOS



"Jaime was a superstar as always! And the SMEs were a great team - lots of productive and collaborative discussion."

- A **Technology** client



"Dallas's attention to detail and ability to step in for nearly all roles (copy editor, writer, designer, and project manager) were so appreciated in driving this project forward!"

A <u>GrandMasters</u> team member