

## Member profile: Pamela Harris-Young

By Jennie Buckner

When Pam and her husband decided to launch their own businesses, they had this life-changing thought: Let's live in a place where we really *want* to be. In a quest to find such a spot, they visited seven cities. Charlotte (aren't we glad!) came out on top.

It's been five years since they left Princeton, NJ, and Pam hasn't looked back. She built a successful executive coaching and consulting practice while becoming an active member of WIF. She is the current Membership Committee Chair and is on the Board of Directors' slate to head the new Member Engagement Committee.



### **Q What drew you to Charlotte?**

A. It's a very welcoming place. We liked how it attracts people from all over the country – even all over the world. And we wanted a city where we could get involved. It's easy here!

### **Q. You worked for a long time in the pharmaceutical business. Why did you become an executive coach?**

A. It was a natural transition. I've always been interested in leadership, and I've mentored and sponsored lots of women.

### **Q. How did you learn about Women's Impact Fund?**

A. I was approached by Sonja Nichols, who took me to two events. I met many women I liked, so I signed up right away.

### **Q Is there a WIF experience that's been particularly meaningful to you?**

A. Joining the grants committee helped me understand the big impact our grants can have. I discovered how WIF membership aligned with a personal goal – to be involved in a group that is making a difference.

### **Q. Tell us a bit about the people who've had the biggest influence on you.**

A. I had strong, dedicated parents who showed me that success is not only about work but is also about friends and family. It's about giving to others.

**Q. What would people be surprised to learn about you?**

A. People seem surprised that I grew up in a beach community. If they just see me in work mode they don't know that I can be laid-back. I know how to chill at the beach.

**Q. Where do you get your best ideas?**

A. Walking on the boardwalk in Cape May, N. J., where I grew up. I go back frequently to see my 91- year-old mother. My family has been part of that community since the 1850s.

**Q. How would you describe a perfect day?**

A. My husband and I actually pick one out each year. We do a personal year in review, which brings back lots of great memories. Our "perfect day" always involves lots of laughter and time spent with family or friends.

**Q. Is there anything else you'd like to share with our members?**

A. Just to remember how WIF touches lives, both in the community and in our membership. We need to share that message. And as Membership Chair, I say: Let's recruit more people!