



EXCEPTIONAL WOMEN'S COACHING

The Tiara Spotlight

Shining our light on inspiring women around the world.



Gabrielle Kalkwijk

Vice President Operations Europe, Dawn Foods

Gabrielle is committed to more diversity in senior leadership positions, to new leadership, and to achieving results while connecting people and letting people grow.

Who are you?

I am Gabrielle Kalkwijk. 45 years old, married with 2 kids, 11 and 9 years old. They were born in Russia when we were working and living there. This was very exciting and special. One day I will write a book about it...

What are you passionate about?

My mission is: • More ladies at top positions in business society. As long as I can, I will use my talents and take responsibility for this. • Let people grow, move people, spread their wings. • Integrate mind and intuition.

What are you doing (up to) in your life right now?

After working for more than 20 years for the same company (of which I spent 10 years in Russia, Poland and Germany and during which my husband quit his job and joined me), I decided it was time for a change in my life. Because I had a high level of loyalty to the company and high standards of integrity for myself, I felt guilty even talking to a headhunter. So, I quit my job in power, and then started openly to look for other jobs and enjoyed a great sabbatical of 5 months. In these 5 months, I did an NLP (neuro-linguistic programming) course, I traveled with the 2 Tiara coaches Franciska and Andrea to Jordan, I participated in [Tiara's Envision Your Life workshop](#), I went to other workshops from How to Use Twitter to singing, and went with my daughter to learn horseback riding. These were all things I had wanted to do for a long time, and had never made time for them, having been working more than full-time and being very committed to my job. Since the first of March this year, I started to work for an American company producing muffins (very nice product). I am on the European Board as the Vice President of Operations in Europe, responsible for 9 factories, logistics and purchasing.

What is your strongest calling or strength?

Achieving results while connecting with people.

How do you recharge your batteries or nourish yourself?

Actually I had to rediscover this again over recent years. Now I can say that horseback riding is really something I can feel completely happy doing (on other days when I am very tired, the horse is a big mirror to me). Furthermore, I get a lot of inspiration from Tiara and [LEAP](#) - to connect with other inspiring ladies. The trip to Jordan for example, I will never forget. What a great experience. No time for small talk, really discussions that matter. I felt very safe to share. Of course, I also like to spend time with my husband and kids and with friends. My family and friends are very important for me.

What are the most important take-aways you've had as a result of participating with Tiara?

In the last 2 years, with Tiara I learned to connect again with myself and anchor that connection. I tend to jump easily into my mind, whereas I am also a very strong intuitive person. To integrate that, has enriched my life so much.



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What would you like to acknowledge yourself for?

There are not many technical senior women who really take a role as frontrunner, inspiring others. I took my role in my former company, organized events for the senior women, made speeches about my own development, hoping to inspire others to live out their ambitions, as I did.

What are you grateful for?

I am very grateful for all my friends, my husband and my children who support me in being a frontrunner and give me energy to do so.

What inspires you?

I love to challenge people to grow and spread out their wings. If we are successful as a team, or if I see how an individual is growing, I am really proud.

What's next? What are you committed to?

I am committed to having a top position in international business society, and in doing so have more ladies working at the top. I really feel this is needed for new leadership. We are already beyond old fashioned man-woman discussions. Everybody has his/her role, we need each other. Diversity is a condition for new leadership. New leadership means connecting people. In my position I am doing what I can in a constructive and positive way.