

# Radnor ABC Volunteer Spotlight: Stacy Biscardi, Academic Mentor

By Zaiya Ngubeni, Radnor ABC Scholar, Class of 2021

**Zaiya: Why did you volunteer to become an academic mentor for the Radnor ABC Program?**

**Stacy:** I've had several wonderful mentors and cheerleaders throughout my life. My parents, grandparents, certain teachers, and employers all helped to guide me. Now it's my chance to do that for someone else. It is an honor for me to be able to support talented young scholars through their academic journeys.

**Z: What advice would you give to Radnor ABC scholars?**

**S:** Never give up, never underestimate yourself, and don't be intimidated by anyone. Surround yourself with positive people. Challenge yourself, network, be kind, be flexible & enjoy the ride.

**Z: What was a challenge that you had to overcome in your academic or professional career?**

**S:** In high school, I had a very strict French teacher. She did not allow anyone to speak English in her classroom. Although I had a B average, she gave me a D because I spoke English to my friends several times. I pulled my grade back up and sophomore year, I switched to Spanish.

**Z: Where did you attend college and what did you study?**

**S:** I went to the University of Michigan, majored in History and minored in Communications. I studied abroad in London one semester of my junior year and traveled all around Europe.

**Z: Tell us about your career path...**

**S:** It's a nonlinear career path for sure. My senior year of college, I applied for positions in TV production. When I barely received a response, I decided to apply to grad school for journalism. I was accepted by NYU and planned to start a semester late. In the meantime, I found a few temp jobs in Philly. I learned that NBC had a temp position open and I jumped at it. As soon as I got my foot in the door at NBC, I told my supervisor that I wanted to be a writer. She believed in me, trained me, and hired me full-time as a writer/producer. I was 22 years old. I ended up working for NBC and CBS for five years (and never going to grad school). When the news became endlessly depressing after 9/11, my mom asked if I'd ever considered law school. On a whim, I took the LSAT and applied to Temple Law School. I was accepted. I quit my TV job and went to law school. During and afterwards, I worked for two law firms, specializing in commercial litigation and civil rights. After my sons were born, I took several years off to be home with them. I wrote and published personal essays and started a blog. Most recently, my sister and I started our own law practice. We support children with special needs in education. We are also working on a children's book about law. My career path is proof that persistence pays off and that it's possible to pursue different passions. Believe in yourself and follow your own path.

## 2020–21 Radnor ABC Scholars



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