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According to Fuentes the future in public accounting looks good for women

By ALBA FIGUEROA

“Statistics demonstrate that women have been very attracted to public accounting in recent years,” says Teresita Fuentes, Tax Partner and Certified Public Accountant at Ernst & Young (E&Y), “we have a commitment to provide the flexibility women need in order to grow professionally and fulfill their personal needs.”

E&Y has said that more women are attaining higher positions within the firm and that the future looks even brighter.

According to Fuentes, the business of public accounting faces many challenges not only in Puerto Rico but also all over the world. She states that there are unique opportunities for those who want to learn and become leaders in the world of finance.

“Our biggest challenge is attracting and retaining people of the right caliber to serve our clients,” she said.

Fuentes advises women to take charge of their careers and to strive for excellence. “Don’t settle for routines, be creative,” she says, “Invest in your professional development and accept challenges.” Fuentes says that women provide balance in the workplace by offering a different perspective. She also says that any company that cannot recognize the advantage of a balanced workplace is missing out on a great opportunity.

Fuentes is right where she wants to be. “Professionally, my goal was to become a partner in this firm and particularly the first woman partner in San Juan,” Fuentes recalls. As a mother, she didn’t know how she would be able to juggle two roles at once, but it worked out well. Fuentes says, “you learn to grow into this role and when you become a master at this juggling act, you realize you wouldn’t have it any other way.”

E&Y has pioneered flexible work arrangements. Just last month, the New York E&Y published a press release to launch the “Working Moms’ Network” to provide mothers with resources, networks, and mentoring. Billie Williamson, Gender Equity and Flexibility Strategy Leader of E&Y said, “making the transition back into the workplace following a parental leave can be a difficult time for many women who

struggle with being a mother and a professional, and ask themselves how they can do it all.”

Fuentes, born in Cuba, got her desire to work in finance from her father and the family’s textile business. She is a proud mother of two, Eduardo, 21, and Michelle, 17. She enjoys growing orchids and going to the spa on her time off.