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CAROLE SYMONDS



Position: Partner

Company: PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

Age: 35

Education: Bachelor's degree, University of Southern Maine, 1992; Master's degree, Northeastern University, 1997

Thank the aimlessness of youth for putting Carole Symonds on the road to success.

Like many college students, Symonds went through a pang of uncertainty as she wound her way through the University of Southern Maine 15 years ago. Her father suggested she take a year off. She did, and visited a local employment agency in suburban Portland. Citing her strong math skills, the agency suggested an accounting job at a local trucking company. "I couldn't

imagine anything more boring in my life," Symonds recalls.

So much for instinct.

Symonds excelled at the job, majored in accounting and has spent the past 12 years in the field, rising to partner level in the private-company practice of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP. "I just fell in love with it," Symonds says of accounting.

Symonds also sits on the board of directors at the Boys & Girls Club of Dorchester and works closely with groups

such as Habitat for Humanity and the World Affairs Council. Symonds credits her mother, an author of children's books, for instilling a concern for children's welfare.

"You can see the effect it has on children's lives," she says.

Symonds, who lives in Arlington, is also finishing a book that her late father started, "The Millionaire Manager." Written as a conversational primer about finance for private business owners, Symonds plans to publish it later this year.

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