

THE IMPACT REPORT

JOURNEYS OF EMPOWERMENT



DRESS FOR SUCCESS®
GREATER NEW YORK CITY

October 2025

Author: Shakira Tené

FROM SEARCHING TO SOARING NISHI AKTER'S JOURNEY TO CONFIDENCE AND COMMUNITY



On Campus

When Nishi first connected with Dress for Success Greater New York City, she was in a season of searching, striving to find her place in the professional world as a first generation Bangladeshi woman living in the Bronx. Her parents had sacrificed so much to give her opportunities they never had, and though that foundation gave her resilience, it also carried the weight of expectation .



Presentation At Fordham University

Spotlight Interview (Q&A) :

Q: Can you tell us about where you were before joining DFS GNYC?

When Nishi first came to Dress for Success, she was pursuing a degree in Psychology with a Business Administration minor at Fordham University. At this time, she was balancing multiple jobs to support her family. Beneath her drive was a quiet struggle with confidence, as a person who stutters. Nishi said, "I wanted to represent women like me." She shared, "but I didn't believe I could."

Q: What motivated you to connect with Dress for Success Greater New York City?

Nishi was drawn to Dress for Success because she wanted more than just career guidance, she was looking for a sense of community and belonging. "I wanted to find a space that saw me as a whole person, not just a resume," she explained. When she found Dress for Success, she discovered exactly that, a sisterhood that helped her build her confidence and see herself as capable, worthy, and powerful.

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Q: Which Dress for Success programs or experiences impacted you most?

She especially found value in:

- Success Starts Now "Boost Your Confidence and Optimizing Your Energy in the Workplace" Workshop, which helped her develop self awareness and communication tools.
- Women in the Workplace, which created a safe space for open dialogue and peer support.
- One on One Mentoring, where she received personalized guidance from women who walked the path before her.
- Financial Coaching, which gave her tools to budget, plan and build a stable financial foundation, something she hadn't been taught at home.

Her styling session was a defining moment. "when I put on that blazer and looked in the mirror, it was emotional," she said. "For the first time, I saw myself as the woman I was becoming, not just the girl who was trying."

Q: How has your life or career changed since joining Dress for Success Greater New York City?

Since her time with Dress for Success, Nishi has stepped boldly into her professional journey. She previously worked on the Corporate Banking FinTech team at Barclays and now works at JPMorgan Chase. Beyond her career success, she's found purpose in giving back, mentoring other first generation women and young professionals navigating their own paths in finance and tech.

Success Highlights

- Built Unshakable Confidence: Transformed self doubt into self assurance through Dress for Success workshops, mentorship, and community support. Learning to own her voice and her story.
- Advanced Her Career: Transitioned from student to finance professional, landing positions at Barclays and JPMorgan Chase while navigating corporate spaces with clarity and purpose.
- Became a Mentor and Advocate: Now pays it forward by mentoring other first generation women, helping them navigate career pathways in finance and technology with confidence.

Closing Quote:

"Confidence doesn't come from waiting to be ready, it comes from showing up before you are."



Client Featured

Nishi Akter

From self doubt to self assurance, Nishi found her voice and purpose through Dress for Success Greater New York City programs. Now thriving in finance and lifting others along the way. Nishi is passionate about health and wellness in her spare time.

Interested in joining the community or receiving services
Click here



Learn more about how Dress for Success Greater New York City helps women to ignite their confidence and achieve economic mobility while thriving at work and life.

<https://keap.page/dnv794/career-services.html>