

AMANDA HOWARD-FAIRRINGTON B.A. COMMUNICATION '10

When experienced mom Amanda Howard-Fairrington went into labor with her second child, she thought she knew exactly what to expect.

To her surprise, she gave birth to two "bundles of joy" – a baby and a new career.

"My childbirth educator helped me have the birth experience of my dreams," she says. "I fell in love with the process of birth and I wanted to do the same thing for others."

Howard-Fairrington proceeded to earn a credential as a Certified Childbirth Educator and Doula (a childbirth coach) from the International HypnoBirthing Institute in New Hampshire. In January 2016, she established her own business, She Believed Birth Services, in Denver.

"Pregnancy, labor and birth are filled with unknowns, and it takes a village to help navigate the journey," she says. "I get to be a member of that village. Seeing a mother's face light up when she feels relief and comfort is really gratifying, and it's an amazing experience to watch babies being born. What could be more fulfilling than that?"

Although she didn't foresee this type of career path during her days as a communication major at CI, Howard-Fairrington credits the University with helping her succeed.

"I believe I would not have a successful business if not for what I learned from my time at CI," she says. "CI not only gave me an education, it gave me confidence to walk into the next phase of life. I'm now into the second year of my business and I still have the same passion I did at the start."

Unable to attend alumni events because she lives in Colorado, Howard-Fairrington remains connected to the CI community via email and social media.

"My CI classmates are very supportive and cheer me on!" she says. "I miss going to the library, though. My goal is to bring my family out for a visit by the end of 2017."

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