

Katerina Slezinger

Director, Application Development, Boston Financial

Staying adaptable and never stop learning – words of advice Katerina Slezinger, Director, Application Development, leaned into throughout her career in the ever-changing Information Technology field.

In our interview, Katerina discussed the crucial role her team plays in managing and enhancing the firm’s custom applications for the LIHTC business, the operational and strategic hats she wears in her daily role, and how effective IT means looking beyond just the technical to the people and business behind it.



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You’ve spent almost 14 years in IT at Boston Financial and really your entire career in the IT world. What drew you to that profession?

I’ve always been drawn to problem-solving and understanding how things work, which naturally led me to the IT field. Early in my career, I was fascinated by the way technology can streamline processes, connect people, and create tangible impact across an organization. That curiosity quickly turned into a passion for building and improving systems and processes.

While at Boston Financial that initial interest has grown into a deeper commitment to continuous learning and innovation. IT constantly evolves, and I’ve been motivated by the opportunity to expand my skill set and contribute to meaningful improvements. What has kept me engaged is not just the technology itself, but the ability to solve complex challenges and play a role in supporting the firm’s strategic objectives and long-term growth.

Describe the work of the Application Development team and how it contributes to the firm overall.

The Application Development team at Boston Financial is deeply embedded within the organization and partners closely with business stakeholders to deliver solutions that address both large-scale strategic initiatives and day-to-day operational needs.

We are responsible for the support, maintenance, and enhancement of a customized suite of applications that underpin the complexities of the LIHTC business. Our dedicated, in-house team ensures these systems remain aligned with regulatory requirements, including ongoing LIHTC and tax compliance changes, while also driving efficiencies through streamlined workflows and process improvements. It’s our job to respond quickly to changing business needs whether troubleshooting problems or delivering enhancements to ensure the reliability of our mission-critical systems.

Explain your specific responsibilities.

I wear both operational and strategic hats. Much of my time is dedicated to managing the IT development team, leading meetings and one-on-one sessions, setting goals, and conducting evaluations. In addition, I manage the IT project portfolio by developing and maintaining the annual fiscal project list, facilitating prioritization and approval processes, and ensuring appropriate resource allocation. I work closely with the project management team to track progress, and provide regular status updates to the steering committee, helping ensure alignment with organizational priorities. Alongside these responsibilities, I continue to oversee select large-scale IT initiatives and applications.

How have you seen the contributions of the Application Development team pay off for Boston Financial during your time there?

I've witnessed the Application Development team deliver meaningful impact by modernizing our operational infrastructure. One significant advancement was the transformation of processes that were once managed through static spreadsheets into fully integrated application modules. This evolution has improved efficiency and enabled more effective, scalable process management across the firm.

A standout example of the team's impact was during the 2020 acquisition of Boston Capital. The team played a pivotal role in ensuring a seamless transition by mapping all necessary data and documentation into our existing systems, allowing the acquired portfolio to be fully operational within our applications from Day 1.



Katerina and her daughter celebrate her son's college graduation.

Equally impressive was the team's execution during the first Tax & Audit season following the acquisition. Despite the complexity and compressed timeline, we completed the cycle within four months of closing without delays. This demonstrated the team's ability to perform under pressure and provide critical support during major business events.

Tell us one of your biggest achievements.

One of my most significant achievements has been my progression from a junior Project Manager to my current role. Throughout this journey, I've taken on increasing responsibility for managing teams, overseeing project portfolios, and driving key initiatives. A particularly meaningful aspect of this achievement has been building and mentoring high-performing teams, improving collaboration between project management and development functions, and implementing processes that enhance efficiency and knowledge sharing across the department. In parallel, earning my Project Management Professional (PMP) certification was an important milestone that strengthened my foundation in project management best practices and equipped me to lead initiatives with greater structure and confidence.

What's the best career advice you've received?

One of the best pieces of advice I've received in the IT field is to stay adaptable and never stop learning. Technology evolves quickly, and staying relevant requires a willingness to build new skills, explore emerging tools, and remain open to change. More recently, that has included actively learning and understanding AI—both its capabilities and its practical applications—so I can better support innovation and informed decision-making.

Equally important was the advice to focus not just on the technical side, but on understanding the business and the people behind it. IT is most effective when it aligns with organizational goals and supports end users in meaningful ways. Building strong relationships, communicating clearly, and approaching challenges with a solutions-oriented mindset have been just as critical as technical expertise.

What are your interests outside of work?

I stay active, including downhill and cross-country skiing, skating, hiking, swimming, paddleboarding, and dancing. Travel is another passion—I love exploring the United States and international destinations. Additionally, I volunteer as a den leader for my daughter's Cub Scout den, which allows me to give back to the community while guiding and mentoring young children.