

Tonya Ludwig

2018 NAU Distinguished Service Alumna

Tonya Ludwig enrolled at National American University in 1988 with the intention of pursuing a travel and tourism degree.

A work study opportunity with the Pennington County State's Attorney's office, however, prompted her to change gears. She found legal work fascinating and meaningful. It was a position in which she could bring justice to victims and make a difference in their lives.

Tonya graduated with her paralegal studies degree in 1991 and continued working for the State's Attorney's office for 10 years, including time as a victim witness advocate.

In 2001, a move to Omaha prompted a career shift.

Tonya was hired as a receptionist for the marketing department at Omaha's Children Hospital. Over her 8 years with the hospital, she earned several promotions, including as Public Relations Coordinator. She also oversaw national marketing for the hospital's nationally renowned eating disorder treatment program. Throughout her time at Children's Hospital, she served four years on the planning committee for the National Kidney Foundation's Cadillac Golf Tournament.

After 8 years at Children's Hospital, Tonya went back to her legal roots, first working for a law firm and then in a corporate legal department on insurance issues. While interesting and challenging, these positions lacked meaning for her.

Tonya and her husband, Dan, went to work on starting their own business – one that could be a true vocation as much as a job. The result was [621 Gifts](http://621gifts.com). Launched in 2015, 621 Gifts is a gift business that uses only products made by small businesses across the country, with 5% of all profits donated to 5 charities in Omaha. 621 Gifts was recently recognized as a 2018 Small Business Champion by SCORE and Sam's Club, due to its positive impact on the community.

During this time, Tonya also serves as a social media & digital marketing strategist and freelance writer for a marketing strategy group, writing blogs, web content and marketing materials.

Due to her career success and her career-long drive to making a positive difference in the lives of others and in her community, Tonya Ludwig has been named a 2018 National American University Distinguished Service Alumna.



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