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ronment the auto industry offers, allowing us to define our own unique language of terms and lingo, and learning from one another. However, I believe we should be more open to accepting people from outside the auto industry. Combining industry experts with fintechs can foster growth and prevent stagnation.

What are some improvements that need to be made in the industry from a diversity and inclusion perspective? What are some examples you've seen of D&I programs that have worked?

There is always room for improvement in the DEI space. More diverse recruits for dealerships and auto lenders would benefit the entire community. Building authentic relationships and joining groups

that align with your values is crucial for successful DEI initiatives. Relationships are the foundation for creating change, especially when it comes to uplifting underrepresented communities.

Describe a time when you were either a mentor or a mentee, and how that has shaped your career.

Mentor/mentee relationships key to ongoing career success. Mentorship provides the knowledge and insights to grow as a business leader, role model, and mentor. Mentorship has played a crucial role in shaping my career. Dedicated mentors have provided me with knowledge and insight to grow as a leader and mentor. Starting my corporate journey at 18, I owe a lot of my success to the guidance of these mentors. They

still influence how I lead and focus on career development within my teams.

Describe a time in your career where you were challenged and how you overcame that challenge.

A challenging yet transformative experience was participating in the Leadership Dallas class of 2022. Despite a busy life and recent promotion, dedicating time to learn about Dallas' economics, history, and societal issues was life-changing. The program helped me grow as a leader, build community, and understand the importance of authenticity.

What is the top trend/storyline in the auto finance industry that you're watching this year?

This year, a top trend is the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) into workflows and processes. Financial institutions and auto lenders are leveraging AI to make their operations smarter, cheaper, and faster. But, challenges remain in implementing AI in an unbiased and compliant manner. We hope to be at the forefront of this digital transformation.

What do you enjoy most about working in the auto finance industry? But, also, what aspect(s) of the business would you change – and how?

I enjoy the camaraderie and unique envi-