



**Desiree Patrice**  
**GLT Deputy Chief**

## Rise.

For Desiree Patrice, Deputy Chief of GLT, her role as a leader is based on the principle that respect is earned and not just given. That foundational philosophy guides how she has developed strong and mutually respectful relationships with her colleagues throughout her career. Desiree's successes are earned and underpinned by a work ethic derived from years of continuously challenging herself, working harder than most of her counterparts, humbly giving of herself, and pushing to succeed despite the reality of often being the only woman, and always the only Black woman, in the room during her engineering studies and much of her career. Desiree never wavers from striving for excellence and staying focused. She now helps to lead a team of dedicated and diverse professionals at GLT and brings these qualities and others—such as humility, persistence, and patience—to a leadership role that regularly presents many challenges alongside great fulfillment. She ably motivates the team to face and conquer any obstacle. Desiree subscribes to the belief: **“Let your high-quality work speak for itself, be humble, and strive for excellence not applause.”**

Desiree applies the above principles to her life and career. Her strong faith and commitment to serve others speak to the person she is. When asked about the advice she might offer people early in their careers, Desiree spoke about her own journey. “When facing difficult, thankless times or obstacles in your path, find something other than work that feeds your soul and serves to keep you grounded and centered on who you are. Know what brings you joy. It is then and only then, will you find the strength to pursue excellence in your work.”



“Desiree is a true leader in principle and in practice. She has risen to the position of Deputy Chief by always working harder and never giving up, and now she truly represents for others that with commitment any goal is within reach. **Desiree's contribution to GLT is immeasurable and I am grateful every day for her dedication to excellence, her expertise, and her positive example to all of us at GLT.**”

– Angel Peña, Chief of Green Line Transformation





Disciplined and driven by nature, **Desiree always rises to meet, and often surpasses, every challenge, and by example, she inspires others to do the same.** She attributes her strong work ethic and values to her familial upbringing and her Catholic schooling on the island of Dominica. There is no denying Desiree’s sharp intellect, command of engineering, understanding of project management best practices, and ability to work with others. She embraces the importance of supporting her colleagues while simultaneously encouraging them to step outside of their comfort zones and excel. Taking calculated risks is something that she has had to do every step of her educational and professional life as she blazed a trail of excellence while being the “odddity” in the field of civil engineering. **Desiree’s commitment and dedication to her work, her team, and her faith form her foundation and make her an exceptional leader and person.** She believes that any job is for anybody who is willing to work hard and move forward undeterred. In the face of a challenging endeavor, Desiree would say, “Develop the tools needed to meet your goals, study your craft, and seek opportunities that expand your horizons. Rest if you must, but do not quit.”



Desiree’s tenacious pursuit of her professional goals, even without role models who looked like her—young, Black, immigrant, female—makes her a true role model of what is possible. Desiree represents what it means to be a well-respected, Black executive at the MBTA. She does not seek attention for herself or her achievements, in fact she shies away from any spotlight, but **by sharing her story for Black History Month, Desiree hopes her journey will encourage others along their way.**

*Her words of inspiration to others:*

**“The road may seem difficult, but you have come too far to turn back now.”**

**Rise.**