



Erica Jeffries Purdo '98

Erica Jeffries Purdo leads the Pharmacy Channel for the Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson in the Strategic Customer Group (SCG). In this role, Erica creates and implements go-to-market strategies for Janssen therapeutics and vaccines through key pharmacy channels. Most recently, Erica led the global Portfolio and Process Management (PPM) team in Johnson & Johnson's Global Services organization. She began her tenure at J&J in 2018 as the chief of staff for Global Services.

Erica is a proud member of the Class of 1998 ("Ninety-Great"). Commissioned in the branch of Aviation, Erica was a UH-60L Blackhawk pilot in the 4th Aviation Brigade, 4th Infantry Division at Fort Hood, TX. Erica spent five years on active duty before being medically retired in 2003. Erica's passion for service led her to a management consultant role that took her to Iraq, where she served in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Even as a civilian, Erica has always sought to serve the military and ultimately worked in the defense sector, supporting U.S. government agencies with assignments in Europe, Asia, and the Middle East.

In 2010, Erica was privileged to receive an appointment to serve as a White House Fellow in the Obama administration. In addition to working at the federal level of government, Erica also had the privilege to serve at the state level as the director of the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs (IDVA), where her team supported nearly 700,000 veterans and their families.

Erica is an ardent supporter of military service members and their families. She has been a member of President George W. Bush's Military Strategic Initiative Council since 2015 and is currently serving a second term. In 2017, Erica was sworn in by the Secretary of the Army to serve as a Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army (CASA) for the state of Illinois. Following her relocation to New Jersey, the Secretary re-appointed Erica in November of 2019 to serve as a CASA for her new home of record, where she proudly serves today. Erica has served on several nonprofit boards for veteran serving organizations, including Bunker Labs and Volunteers of America Illinois.

The challenges of today require thoughtful and impactful solutions. Her goal is to unite graduates, building upon the common thread that binds them all—the Long Gray Line. Erica earned a Master of Arts in security studies from Georgetown University and a Master of Business Administration from Virginia Tech University. Erica lives in Westfield, NJ, with her husband, Derek; daughters, Talia (5) and Brielle (3); and Cairn Terrier, Sampson (almost 16).