

## **BACKGROUND**

I am currently pursuing my online Master of Science in Psychology at Arizona State University. I am an alumna at California State University, Long Beach and received my Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. Prior to this, I graduated from Golden West College and received my Associate of Arts degree. Since September of 2007, I began my employment at Coastline College and worked in various departments such as Distance Learning, Assessment Center and Institutional Effectiveness, Planning, Research, and Grant Development. Currently, I am a Program Coordinator for Guided Pathways and Professional Development in the Division of Online and Distance Learning. Specifically, I service faculty, management and students on a technical and academic basis in a number of capacities that includes online, telecourse, cable and independent study courses, as well as coordinate college-wide professional development events and activities. Due to my work experience in higher education, I believe that characteristics such as patience, positivity and compassion are necessary to aid students throughout their educational process. I believe that it is utmost important to listen and understand the individual needs of students in order to help better serve them in achieving their educational goals. Also, it is crucial to understand equity and diversity amongst the college population in order to identify resources to aid students. For the past few years, I have developed and retained these traits as well as grown accustomed to helping students based on their individual needs so that they may succeed in their educational and career goals.

## **SIGNIFICANT EVENTS/PEOPLE**

I was raised solely by my mother, who had dropped out of high school to raise her twelve siblings after her father had left the family. During her early adult years, she escaped to America during the Vietnam War in search of a better life. My mother became a single parent

who dedicated all of her time to raise my sister and me. My younger sister requires much care because she has downs syndrome and is classified as low functioning, meaning that her IQ level is of a five year old. At an early age, I assisted my mother with raising my sister as well as being a Vietnamese translator during all necessary circumstances. My primary focus was always looking after my family and education was never a priority. However, my mother had always encouraged me to put school first and was always accommodating towards school related functions. After I graduated at Golden West College, I transferred to California State University, Long Beach and received my Bachelor's degree in Psychology. Afterwards, I applied for a permanent classified position at Coastline College and became the breadwinner of my family as my mother and sister continue to reside with me.

### **PROFESSIONAL/CAREER GOALS AND EXPECTATIONS**

When I first applied to the Student Development Higher Education (SDHE) graduate program in 2011 at California State University, Long Beach, I was set on becoming an academic counselor based on my involvement with students as a Guidance Assistant in the Assessment Center. I proctored placement testing on a regular basis and assisted potential and current students in understanding the courses they tested into for mandatory subjects such as math and English. The expectations that I had towards becoming a college counselor included the following: feeling the satisfaction of helping students pursue their goals, working in a positive environment with valuable colleagues and continual growth in understanding how to better serve students. I knew that my aspiration was to motivate students in pursuing their passion as I was once motivated by my caring and encouraging counselor, family and colleagues. After I was placed on the wait list for SDHE and was unable to be admitted into the program due to maximum occupancy, I realized it was an opportunity to network and became more involved

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with committees, while exploring potential options in higher education. I became a Course Assistant in the Distance Learning department and assisted students and faculty on a technical and personal level. I was then promoted to the position of Program Coordinator for Guided Pathways and Professional Development and gained a better understanding of the integral goals of the college. This opportunity shifted my initial goals of becoming a counselor to learning how to lead others in statewide initiatives. At this point, I realized the importance of obtaining a Master's degree if I were to continue on my path of leadership. After much research and self-reflection, I concluded that I wanted to return to the field of Psychology, as it encompasses everything I am truly passionate about. I believe that furthering my education will help guide me and teach me the necessary skills to help lead others by example.