

2022 Student Employee of the Year National Recognition

NATIONAL STUDENT EMPLOYMENT ASSOCIATION



National Student
Employment Association



Thank You!

NSEA would like to thank all of the student employees across the nation. We recognize your dedication and contributions to your college or university and its surrounding community. We could not do this work without your support!

In continued support of all students across the country, NSEA and the SEOTY committee chose to take the opportunity to recognize the hard work of not only regional Student Employee of the Year winners but also students with other noteworthy contributions.

Thank you to our regional chairs and our national committee for assisting in gathering these stories!



National Student
Employment Association



Grady Bing

Graphic Designer
Utah State University

HOMETOWN

Santaquin, UT

FAVORITE STUDENT EMPLOYMENT MEMORY:

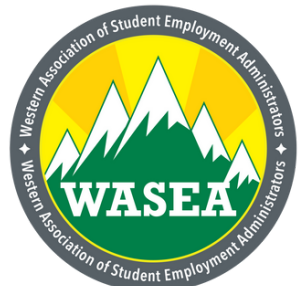
- Finishing a report for the governor
- Lunch with coworkers!
- My coworker having a baby!

WHAT MY JOB HAS GIVEN ME:

My work has instilled within me a newfound level of excitement, passion, and hard work. Collaboration and operating with a keen awareness of emotional intelligence is the bedrock of my experience

REFLECTION FROM GRADY'S SUPERVISOR:

Throughout my career, I have hired more than a dozen student graphic designers. Most of them have been exceptional, since I work with the USU graphic design program directly to recruit their top students. Grady Bing is easily the most talented designer out of all of them, and he exhibits the strongest work ethic too. (We've had a lot of really great human beings in the position, and Grady is also in that top tier for professionalism, collegiality, and kindness.) Grady is a key reason that my team was able to successfully release the Report to the Governor on Land, Water, and Air and help launch the associated institute. His professional portfolio and career will benefit from this effort; but, more than that, his efforts will benefit the lives of all Utahns. This report has been placed in the hands of elected leaders, and other officials who make decisions for the people of Utah.



Elena Bissonette

Job Skills Assistant, Career Services
Tutoring Program, School of Education
College of St. Scholastica

WHAT MY JOB HAS GIVEN ME:

Both [of my] jobs have provided me with the knowledge, skills, and abilities to be a member outside of the CSS community. I feel confident in my ability to interact and serve others' needs while providing effective and accurate information and support.

REFLECTION FROM ELENA'S SUPERVISOR:

Elena has been fantastic to work with. To say that Elena "impactfully works with others to achieve a common goal" is a vast understatement. She was instrumental in creating and launching programs and events, trained other students, collected and analyzed data, represented departments and the College at events, and always looked for ways of improvement. It is common to hear Elena ask, "What else can I do to help?" Or, "Is there anything else you want me to do." She is willing to pitch in with tasks and projects. In every task she keeps the focus of serving our students to help, guide, educate and lead with the goal of academic and career success which ultimately supports the College's mission to prepare students for meaningful work. It is a privilege and honor to have Elena as part of our staff.



HOMETOWN

Not Provided

FAVORITE STUDENT EMPLOYMENT MEMORY:

Career Services

One of my most cherished memories working with the Career Services Team was planning and executing free professional headshots for students. Providing an opportunity for students to obtain a free professional headshot for their professional portfolios while collaborating with a dedicated and lighthearted team was a memorable experience that I will treasure.

Tutoring Program

One of my most cherished memories working on the ISD709 Project Tutoring Program was being able to help build and create meaningful training materials for incoming tutors. Collaborating with my supervisor and listening to the needs of future tutors while keeping in mind the needs of district students was incredibly purposeful.





Mollie Bowman

Writing Lab Consultant
College of Charleston

WHAT MY JOB HAS GIVEN ME:

I have gained so much from this job over the past three years. I feel that I have learned how to recognize what a student needs in their consultation and navigate those unique interactions in a way that will best help the specific individual I am working with. Additionally, by helping others with their writing, I have also been able to greatly improve my own work. Each client introduces me to a new way to think about and approach writing. Finally, this job has put me in a position where I feel comfortable transitioning into the college classroom as I start working as a graduate assistant this fall.

REFLECTION FROM MOLLIE'S SUPERVISOR:

As a Writing Lab consultant, Mollie Bowman not only conducts training sessions and presents at international conferences, but she demonstrates empathy and intellectual rigor as she assists students writing papers across the curriculum. She can adjust to any student's level of learning and speak with any student.

HOMETOWN

Simpsonville, SC

FAVORITE STUDENT EMPLOYMENT MEMORY:

Some of the most gratifying experiences I've had as a consultant in the Writing Lab have been the semesters when students come in consistently for my help. I love being able to watch these clients grow as writers and become more confident in their work, and I feel that I, in turn, learn so much from each of them.



Cathy Dutong

Activities Coordinator, Westside Student Life
Peer Mentor, Office of International Studies &
Programs
Central Washington University

WHAT MY JOB HAS GIVEN ME:

I used to be very insecure about myself but my job has given me so much confidence in my abilities and skills. I go to work and I am welcomed with a supportive work environment and I'm constantly surrounded by co-workers and supervisors that believe in me and what I can do. I am more than grateful and overjoyed to be a part of a CWU family even if we're not located at the main campus. To me, my supervisors are more than just bosses, they're mentors whom I will cherish even after I graduate.

REFLECTION FROM CATHY'S SUPERVISOR:

I met Cathy Mae at the start of Fall Quarter 2021. I was alone trying to manage the CWU-Lynnwood Center on my own (our Secretary Senior went on an extended leave). Cathy Mae showed up at the office and started helping me by staffing the front desk and answer the phones so that I could carry on with other duties. Cathy Mae did this out of her own initiative and kindness. She did not have to be there and help me, yet she kept coming to the office every day to help, until I was able to hire someone to support me in the office. Since then, I have been able to work with Cathy Mae in her role as a Lynnwood Center CAT member and saw her repeatedly take on the initiative to create, organize and carry on with Student Life activities regardless of the challenges that the pandemic has thrown her way. Cathy Mae is a leader in the making and we are very fortunate to have her with us. I am already dreading the day she will move on to other opportunities, yet I am convinced that Cathy Mae is destined to do great things and I am eager to watch her grow and honored to have had the opportunity to work with her. I have been in higher ed for over 20 years and worked with many fantastic students, yet Cathy Mae really stands out as exceptional.

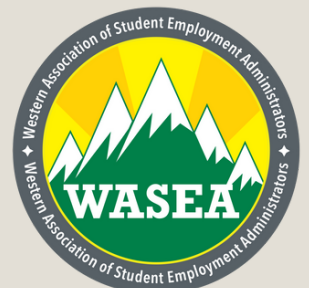


HOMETOWN

I'm a Filipino international student from the Kingdom of Bahrain.

FAVORITE STUDENT EMPLOYMENT MEMORY:

My favorite memory so far is collaborating with CWU Lynnwood's Westside Student Life team to provide a full week of events for International Education Week 2021. I'm proud to meet and see students at the campus enjoying the events I planned and I am happy that there was a great turnout! We socialized and ate Vietnamese sub sandwiches together and I will continue to cherish that memory as a part of my time at CWU.



Caitlin Evans

Academic Access Rhodes Student Associate
Rhodes College

WHAT MY JOB HAS GIVEN ME:

This position has not only offered professional development skills, but has also been an incredibly meaningful through creating a universally accessible design for course content. Not only was I introduced to a passion for disability advocacy, which I may never have truly developed independently, but I've become an active member of the community, committed to sharing information to make education more accessible. More than anything, I've found the importance of learning from my mistakes, especially when encountering new concepts, experiences, and ideas, which challenged me to become my best self. My supervisor, Melissa Butler, has been such an extraordinary mentor and role model, and I cannot even begin to express the positive influence this role has had in my development as a student, young professional, and actively engaged community member.

REFLECTION FROM CAITLIN'S SUPERVISOR:

Caitlin stands apart from others in her constant enthusiasm, professionalism, maturity, and attention to detail. I appreciate how she applies her strong work ethic and creativity to every project.

Caitlin's meaningful work has contributed to our campus culture for access and inclusion.



HOMETOWN

Memphis, TN

FAVORITE STUDENT EMPLOYMENT MEMORY:

Throughout my time as the Academic Access RSA, I've been introduced to something new nearly every day. Although every new experience has been such a joy and challenge, if I had to choose, one of my favorite memories occurred when our new Columbia Braille Printer finally worked! I had spent weeks working through user manuals, video tutorials, and software installation guides, so our first successful print of a Braille PDF was such an exciting moment - not only for my own personal work, but for taking another step towards a campus-wide universally accessible design.



Nicole Hardiman

Service Coordinator
Southern New Hampshire University

WHAT MY JOB HAS GIVEN ME:

This job has made my entire college experience amazing. It has given me friends and family and such a sense of community here on campus and I am so thankful to have found it.

REFLECTION FROM NICOLE'S SUPERVISOR:

Nicole Hardiman is sunshine personified. She just makes everyone she interacts with feel better about themselves and their day. There's no way to interact with her and not leave with a smile. This is true of her supervisors, her peers, and the kids she works with in the community. Nicole consistently brings energy, enthusiasm, passion, and commitment to her roles at The Chandler Center and we've never needed that more than in the past year. We had no model for doing community work virtually, so when the announcement came that we wouldn't be returning to campus there was some worry about whether or not we'd be able to do the kind of work we do. We had to get creative to think about how we could take in-person plans and make them virtual. Nicole was phenomenal at this. While she faced repeated technological challenges, difficulties tracking people down via email, and many, many changed plans, Nicole never lost her positive attitude. She often set the tone for the rest of us, professional staff included. When it was easy to feel discouraged, Nicole reminded all of us that it was worth it to keep pushing for the people and organizations we serve.

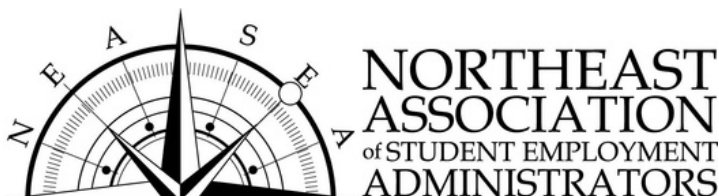


HOMETOWN

Marlborough, MA

FAVORITE STUDENT EMPLOYMENT MEMORY:

Being able to help all our community partners and seeing the difference we make.



Mercedes Yasmine Hendley

CalFresh Outreach Student Assistant
California State University, Sacramento

WHAT MY JOB HAS GIVEN ME:

The job gave me the opportunity to hone in my social media marketing skills -- something I have found to be vital in my new job as a WIC Nutritionist. It has given me confidence to work independently; my lovely supervisor trusted I could do the work on my own. Last, the job gave me insight into the disconnect between students in need and available services.

REFLECTION FROM MERCEDES' SUPERVISORS:

Mercedes was a shining star in the CARES office! This year we prioritized fighting food insecurity on campus. Mercedes had a huge role in this, working very hard to get the word out about CalFresh food resources, ASI Food Pantry and other critical student support services. She turned the CalFresh Instagram account (@cfosacstate) into a wonderful platform by students for students, sharing crucial information to students about resources for food. She helped to bring a student lens to the conversation, breaking the stigma of asking for help and making it an enjoyable experience for students. Because of Mercedes, over 100 students had the chance to apply for CalFresh, get food benefits and eat this semester. She helped to take on this important mission and really shined!



HOMETOWN

Gilroy, California

FAVORITE STUDENT EMPLOYMENT MEMORY:

My favorite memory was working with people in and out of our department to create a campaign that would support the EATS act, a federal bill aiming to remove the 20 hour work week requirement for college students to qualify for SNAP. Although it was not successful, it is my favorite memory because I was able to collaborate with so many people on something we supported together. It is also my favorite memory because I learned about federal funding, student engagement, and student fears around stigma.



Ben Lapidus

Senior Systems Analyst
University of Rochester

WHAT MY JOB HAS GIVEN ME:

I don't know where to begin! In terms of technical skills, this job was my first toe-dip into web development. This sparked a passion that has grown into a marketable skill that scored me my first job after graduation. In softer skills, I've learned so much about pushing the bounds. I've had the opportunity to work with truly special people that have shown, through example, what takes to turn an idea into a reality. An office that can create a year of engaging, unique, and thoughtful "virtual" programming in just a few weeks ought to teach me tons about adaptability, inclusivity, resiliency, creativity, and passion for the work.

REFLECTION FROM BEN'S SUPERVISOR:

Ben was hired in the fall of 2019 and by the time he graduates this spring he will have had 4 different staff supervisors. Ben stands out because he handles transition like that and the changing expectations the last few years better than anyone I've seen. When COVID hit and our needs for our student employees changed Ben stepped up to make what needed to happen, happen. Whether that was pulling a drastically increased number of data reports from our student engagement system to help with event management, student engagement tracking, managing the food pantry, or more, he was steady and reliable in a time when little else was. Ben has been described by other staff members as a "superstar," "the hardest working student I've met," "a true professional," "just so nice," and more. In Wilson Commons Student Activities, we truly cannot say enough positive things about Ben. His attention to detail, enthusiasm for his work, and proactive attitude make Ben a joy to work with.



**NORTHEAST
ASSOCIATION**
of STUDENT EMPLOYMENT
ADMINISTRATORS



HOMETOWN

Commack, NY

FAVORITE STUDENT EMPLOYMENT MEMORY:

For the better part of a semester, I was diligently helping to launch a program to encourage students across the university to complete their daily health screening. It was a blast to see excited students get a surprise prize and it was so exciting to see a project come to life, but my favorite memory was when the dust settled and I was able to reflect and calculate the progress we made after the program completed. Crunching the numbers, it was so exciting and rewarding to see that our progress together had paid off. There's something about creating something, putting in time and care, and seeing it make a difference in our community that was very special.



Nhi Le

Student Researcher
Missouri State University

WHAT MY JOB HAS GIVEN ME:

This job has given me many things. I gain lab related skills. It helped me boost my confidence level, and most importantly, I gain valuable friendships.

HOMETOWN

Vietnam

FAVORITE STUDENT EMPLOYMENT MEMORY:

My favorite memory is when I first started working in the lab and I got to use the confocal microscope for the first time. My research advisor showed me step by step on how to use different functions of the microscope. The moment I saw the images of fluorescence yeast cells, I knew I would love my project!

REFLECTION FROM NHI'S SUPERVISOR:

Nhi's research focuses on characterizing the behavior of tiny cell membrane dots in cells treated with heavy metal nanomaterials. Nhi's interpersonal communication skills are outstanding. We have a weekly lab meeting in which she presents her weekly research update to our lab group. In addition, she gives a monthly update by submitting a written report. My evaluation of her report is "free from flaw", nothing to be edited and so her report is final.

I find that Nhi is favored by all undergraduate students in the lab, and it is because Nhi is always ready to help them. Furthermore, when they work together, Nhi never gets tired of teaching and demonstrating hands-on techniques for their sake. Nhi believes that the ultimate goal of all research is to improve the well-being of mankind and believes that research achieve the projected goals when they focus on their work without fear of failure. I would like to say with confidence that she is a mature and prepared researcher than a beginner in research with a rosy idea that one simply performs an experiment and then it would produce results.



William Miner

Ace Student Employee
Middlesex Community College



WHAT MY JOB HAS GIVEN ME:

Because I decided to return to school in my late twenties, I found myself burdened with anxiety and doubt. Even after completing a full year with great success, I was never able to shake that sense of imposter syndrome which plagued my journey. When one of my professors approached me about working as a tutor with the ACE Department, I remember questioning whether or not I was qualified. Despite how well I had done personally, I found it difficult to imagine myself being of any assistance to others. However, during my interview, I distinctly recall feeling so grateful and excited. Much of my previous work experience had been born out of necessity, not enthusiasm for the work itself; so this new feeling came as a surprise!

I could never have anticipated precisely how much joy working as an SI would bring me. Working as an SI has helped me develop a confidence that never existed before. This new confidence was born from not only a strengthened understanding of the courses I tutor but also from the knowledge that I have something meaningful to offer others. With each session, the feedback students provide me strengthens my self-worth, reminds me to continue honing the skill of patience, and most importantly, each session reminds me to reflect those experiences toward the students I work with.

My experience when returning to school was not singular. Being an SI with ACE has shown me that each of us has doubts of our own. Even if I have nothing to offer a student academically, I remind myself that I am in a position to strengthen their self-confidence and self-worth, just as ACE has done for me. I have been so lucky to work with all of the ACE department staff, tutors, and students. I will be eternally grateful for my time with ACE.



HOMETOWN

Lowell, MA

FAVORITE STUDENT EMPLOYMENT MEMORY:

Describing my favorite student employee memory has proven surprisingly tricky to answer. When I first began considering the particular highlights of my time as an ACE Student employee, so many moments sprang to mind.

One particular moment that I will always cherish came in the form of an email. A student and I had spent several weeks working together in preparation for the TEAS (Test of Essential Academic Skills). When the student and I first began working together, the task appeared insurmountable. There were only two weeks to prepare, and a mountain of content to cover. Despite both my inexperience working as a partner on the TEAS, and the students' clear trepidation, their hard work and focus were rewarded.

I was so excited to learn that the student had not only passed the TEAS but had scored far beyond the necessary minimum for entry to Middlesex Community College's nursing program. This student had overcome an enormous obstacle in the pursuit of their dream job, and like me, had discovered a new sense of confidence. I remember feeling so proud to have had the opportunity to work alongside this student. This was the moment when I began to feel the excitement surrounding TEAS preparation in the future!



Remy Murray

Student Trainer, Lottie Nelson Dining Hall
Messiah University

WHAT MY JOB HAS GIVEN ME:

I've learned several professional skills that will help me in my future. For example, I've learned how to work collaboratively with a team, more specifically in a leadership role this past year as a new student trainer. Having leadership skills and being able to teach our new employees new skills will greatly benefit me in the future as a teacher. I've also learned how to have professional relationships with my supervisors and coworkers and communicate effectively when I have questions or suggestions. Plus, I get to work in an environment where everyone is very kind and a pleasure to work with. I greatly value the relationships I've established at Lottie, both personal and professional.

REFLECTION FROM REMY'S SUPERVISOR:

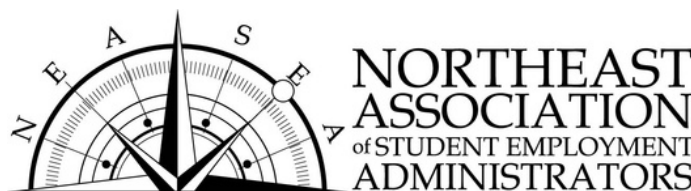
Remy Murray. Awesome! Legendary! Remy is a crucial element to the success of our restaurant operations. She is naturally able to view her job duties and responsibilities on a stellar level and is always enthusiastic to immediately get things done with the highest degree of hospitality, efficiency, and integrity. She is most definitely the "go-to" person that I turn to when faced with unexpected challenges and staffing issues in the ever-changing environment of the dining hall. Working in Lottie Nelson Dining Hall at Messiah University is not a glamorous job, yet Remy makes the job look effortless. Her smile and attitude are contagious! Her attention to detail and quality are apparent to all who interact with her. We are so fortunate to have Remy as part of the Dining Services family!

HOMETOWN

Mechanicsburg, PA

FAVORITE STUDENT EMPLOYMENT MEMORY:

My favorite memory is from the day we reopened our salad bar at Lottie this past summer! I decorated the salad bar with a "grand reopening" sign and a ribbon, and we had a little ribbon cutting ceremony where the supervisors spoke and our salad chef, Ana, cut the ribbon. It was awesome to see the whole staff (kitchen and service workers) together because we usually all work in our separate areas and don't get to be together all at once.



Michaela Neal

STEM Ambassador, North Dakota Space Grant Consortium
University of North Dakota

WHAT MY JOB HAS GIVEN ME:

Working as a STEM Ambassador for the North Dakota Space Grant Consortium has been such an enriching opportunity – and an absolute blast! I feel so lucky to be part of this dynamic team, exchanging collaborative ideas and pursuing creative projects for STEM outreach. Working remotely from my home state has given me a unique perspective to envision how cutting-edge technology, like virtual reality and gamified learning, can transform our ability to communicate, learn, and experience STEM concepts. Through this job, I feel fortunate to access professional development and support to help me build the technical skills necessary to turn vision into reality. This year, my team and I created a web-based virtual reality escape room curriculum for middle school students. The process, from start to finish, has been such a journey. As I reflect on all my experiences so far, and everything to come, I am just awed by all the doors that open with the right combination of collaboration, perseverance, and training. When I gaze into a virtual reality headset or imagine what can be created through game-based online learning tools, I feel as though I am glimpsing the education of the future. It's an inclusive future that bridges geographic distance and ignites a passion for learning and excelling in STEM, whether in the classroom or beyond.

REFLECTION FROM MICHAELA'S SUPERVISOR:

Ms. Neal has been an absolute asset to the North Dakota Space Grant Consortium in her role as STEM Ambassador. She has contributed to the team through her unique talents in creating NASA and STEM K-12 lesson plans, developing a brand new virtual reality experience for students incorporating the UND Space Studies Human Space Flight Laboratory, and has undertaken all efforts as a true leader. She has embodied leadership through communication skills and teamwork, and is sure to always include others in her initiatives as well as contribute to projects led by her peers. Ms. Neal has significantly increased the positive impact of the NDSCG.



HOMETOWN

El Dorado Hills, CA

FAVORITE STUDENT EMPLOYMENT MEMORY:

Putting on VR goggles for the first time was a surreal experience. I instantly “clicked” with the creative potential for the technology as a way to visualize our world and our universe at all different scales. Exploring in virtual reality, I could finally see the University of North Dakota campus as my onsite peers do, and I was energized by the collaboration we unlocked, with both onsite and remote students working and brainstorming together in the same space. I became a distance student, instead of a distant student. From that moment on, the ideas just flowed.





Sophia Pesano

Athletic Communications Student Assistant
Stony Brook University

WHAT MY JOB HAS GIVEN ME:

The job has given me great friends and relationships. Everyone I've met has been super supportive and just a great group of people to work with and be friends with.

REFLECTION FROM SOPHIA'S SUPERVISOR:

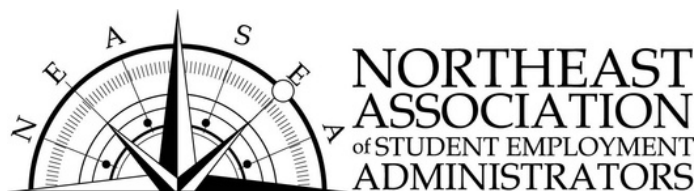
Sophia stand out because of her ability to take things and run with it. We give her time and time again different tasks and she does them with incredible quality and puts her own spin on them.

HOMETOWN

Marlboro, NY

FAVORITE STUDENT EMPLOYMENT MEMORY:

My favorite memory is anytime the team pulls off a great victory and being right there on the sideline to witness that energy is pretty special.



Makaylia Ray

Resident Assistant
Appalachian State University

WHAT MY JOB HAS GIVEN ME:

This job has given me a sense of boundaries. As a person, I have always been the one who goes out of my way to do anything and everything for everyone. I wanted to be the backbone of my residence hall and make sure that every one of my residents knew I was there for them. However, all this did was lead to burnout. I was tired, emotional, and felt like I wasn't growing academically. Around this time, I had an evaluation with my supervisor, and her most significant criticism was that "Makaylia doesn't know how to set boundaries with her residents and say 'no.'" She explained that I am a good RA and give my all. But if I'm giving my all, what am I leaving for myself? I really sat on this and thought about how half of my job is preparing my residents to live on their own as adults, and if I am doing everything for them, they aren't growing either. My job helped me find my sense of self through setting boundaries with my residents, setting up a quiet time for myself. With this, I also learned to encourage my residents to solve problems by themselves first, and if they feel like they need help, I am always here!

REFLECTION FROM MAKAYLIA'S SUPERVISOR:

Makaylia has been a wonderful, passionate, and dedicated Resident Assistant (RA) for the 2 years she has served University Housing here at Appalachian State. Despite starting the position during Fall of 2020 in the midst of COVID restrictions, Makaylia did a wonderful job building a tight knit and dependable community for her residents. This year she has continued that work with an even greater number of residents. Makaylia is always reliable, empathetic, caring, considerate, and positive, and her desire to help people and get people excited for their residence experience is contagious. In addition to supporting and building community for students, Makaylia has supported individual students through extremely difficult emotional situations. Throughout these incidents, Makaylia has always demonstrated a moving amount of compassion and care for her residents, and prioritizes the well-being of those who depend on her. Makaylia furthermore brings a positive and energetic presence to our staff, encouraging others to be successful RAs and reminding the team of why we do what we do. She has also been an excellent mentor and resource for the new staff, providing leadership and setting a great example of what it means to be an empathetic and effective RA. Makaylia's success as an RA is complemented by her dedication to her academics in Communication Sciences and Disorders. She is passionate about her studies, and prioritizes her school work. She aspires to attend grad school to continue her studies, and uses her experiences in her academic program and as an RA to be more successful and effective in each area. Overall, Makaylia is a delight to work with, and has stunned the department with her skills and energy for the position.



HOMETOWN

Hope Mills, North Carolina

FAVORITE STUDENT EMPLOYMENT MEMORY:

During the COVID pandemic in the Fall of 2020, residents were not allowed to have anyone in their rooms. My residence hall was set up to have a small "lobby/study area" where residents could gather as long as they had masks. One of my residents brought out her boombox with a disco ball, turned off the lights, and played "Just Dance" until quiet hours! So many residents came out of their rooms and joined! They talked, mingled, laughed, and danced. It showed me how resilient my residents were amid this pandemic, and as a first-year RA last year, it made me happy that they felt comfortable enough to build community. Watching my freshmen residents, who some struggled with mental illness, financial issues, family issues, or any other number of outside stressors, come together for a small amount of time and have fun was the most rewarding night of my RA career.





Dakota Roettger

Student Employment Lead, Office of Financial Aid
University of Wisconsin-Madison

WHAT MY JOB HAS GIVEN ME:

My job has provided an elevated sense of career readiness, complementing the lessons I have learned through my coursework in the Wisconsin School of Business. In addition to this, my employment has allowed me to explore my professional interests and created a safe space to discover and develop my own professional style. My supervisors and colleagues have shared endless guidance and support throughout my employment experience, and the friendships I have made while working as a student employee will be with me for life.

REFLECTION FROM DAKOTA'S SUPERVISOR:

Dakota is an exceptional student leader who has continually gone above and beyond in his position with our office for the past 4 years. His commitment to continually better himself and those around him is awe-inspiring in addition to his innate ability to center our students, putting them at the heart of everything he does is truly invaluable for our team. He is someone who views every task, project, or experience as a learning opportunity and is able to think critically outside of the box to generate innovative ideas and execute on projects to better the student experience. In the past year alone, Dakota has contributed so much to our team. His most notable accomplishments include: creating and analyzing a student employment experience survey that was distributed to 8,000 students, designing innovative avenues for junior and senior students to mentor and engage first-year students, developing a comprehensive curriculum based off the NACE competencies where students can reflect on workplace skills and earn badges, and redesigning our Student Employment website to be more student-centric. Dakota is an extraordinary student with skill and talents well beyond his years. The impact he has made at the University of Wisconsin-Madison will be felt long after he graduates and will undoubtedly have a positive impact on students for years to come.

HOMETOWN

Eau Claire, WI

FAVORITE STUDENT EMPLOYMENT MEMORY:

I feel incredibly lucky to have collaborated with an amazing team during my time as a student employee, so there are many favorite memories. I have greatly enjoyed helping students and campus partners achieve success, watching my coworkers grow in their roles and develop new skills over time, and all of the times my team has bonded as a group over food or snacks in the office.



Kanuri Roundtree

Library Student Assistant and Social Media/Event
Content Creator
University of San Diego

WHAT MY JOB HAS GIVEN ME:

Copley Library has offered me the ability to not only grow as a person, but also explore so many different facets of my education. For instance, as a chemistry major, I rarely get to be artsy or creative in a non science way. But at Copley, the world is my oyster. Copley has given me so many wonderful mentors and individuals to look up to, and has become such a, integral part of my life. It is simply a pleasure that I am given the opportunity to give back to the library that has given so much to me.

REFLECTION FROM KANURI'S SUPERVISOR:

Kanuri has worked in Copley Library Access Services for the last four years. During that time she has adapted to a complete renovation of the building; transitioned to a remote work during the height of the pandemic; and returned to work on-site with strict COVID protocols and ongoing changes to our workflows and policies. Throughout all of those upheavals Kanuri has maintained a positive attitude, delivered consistently excellent work, and inspired all of us with her enthusiasm. She is a pleasure to work with, a natural leader, and an excellent role model for all of our other Student Assistants.

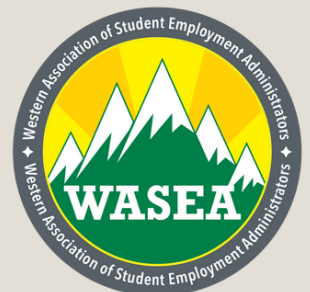


HOMETOWN

Hoover, Alabama

FAVORITE STUDENT EMPLOYMENT MEMORY:

My favorite student employment memory at Copley Library has been being able to set up Words of Encouragement Signs for students to leave notes for their peers during finals week. I had the opportunity to get creative, artsy, and deliver something to students that I believe was a big encouragement and motivation to push through finals. It helped bring a sense of community and everytime I would pass by the signs, each with an array of notes, it brought a smile to my face.





Nicolas Schnitzius

Student Assistant - Academic Affairs/Worforce
Collin College - Plano Campus

WHAT MY JOB HAS GIVEN ME:

My time as a student assistant has given me the chance to grow as a professional in an environment that inspires me to emulate those I admire and respect.

HOMETOWN

Plano, TX

FAVORITE STUDENT EMPLOYMENT MEMORY:

I took for a vacation for my birthday during the summer of 2021, I came back and went to work like normal. Oblivious to the fact that I had a surprise birthday party waiting for me with many of my friends in the division. It was fun and heartwarming experience.

REFLECTION FROM NICOLAS' SUPERVISOR:

Nicolas "Nic" Schnitzius is an exemplary student employee with a positive attitude, strong work ethic, high quality of work, desire to be a productive team member and genuine care for his co-workers. He exemplifies the Collin College Core Values and the Plano Campus motto, "Be Nice. Work Hard." Nic is a self-starter who consistently looks for opportunities to support the needs of faculty and staff within the Fine Arts/Education division. Nic interacts with fellow students, staff, faculty, and administration in a welcoming and professional manner. I cannot imagine a more deserving student. He is a valued co-worker, and our division is so grateful to have him on our team.



Mark Tyler

Student Worker - Library
South Louisiana Community College

WHAT MY JOB HAS GIVEN ME:

Money and experience.

REFLECTION FROM MARK'S SUPERVISOR:

Mark Tyler stands out above all others because he performed his job duties efficiently, thoroughly and timely. Mark also had perfect attendance in the two years he worked in the library.



HOMETOWN

Duson

FAVORITE STUDENT EMPLOYMENT MEMORY:

Being able to pay my tuition through it.





Joshua Woo

Research Assistant, Innovation + Design Enabling Access (IDEA) Initiative
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

HOMETOWN

Greer, South Carolina

FAVORITE STUDENT EMPLOYMENT MEMORY:

One of my favorite memories with the IDEA Initiative was helping to organize Innovate4AMR, a global design competition inviting students to implement antimicrobial stewardship in resource-limited healthcare settings, with the goal of ensuring access to life-saving antibiotics and increasing equity. From engaging over 1,200 interested students in the on-line promotion phase to hosting the capacity-building workshop in Geneva, Switzerland for finalist teams, I had the opportunity to speak to, work with, and learn from students from all around the globe. Seeing how their innovations evolved, with a cohort of students like-minded in their commitment to be change agents, but from such diverse backgrounds, was inspiring. Throughout the workshop, I saw all our efforts from previous months come to fruition. Connecting these students with leading figures in antimicrobial resistance from the World Health Organization, I saw first-hand how impactful our policy work is. While a pandemic can make the challenge of tackling emerging infectious diseases seem so elusive, each of the thirty-two finalist students made me realize why our work in training the next generation of global health leaders is so important.

WHAT MY JOB HAS GIVEN ME:

Working with the IDEA Initiative has given me more than I could have ever imagined. From a technical perspective, I've learned to think at an analytical level that could not be taught in the classroom—from conceptualizing and visualizing system diagrams to designing and launching strategic social media campaigns. From a teamwork perspective, I've had the opportunity to work with policymakers around the globe, from a multitude of backgrounds, while honing how to write and communicate the “simplicity that lies on the other side of complexity” of these policy issues. Perhaps most importantly, my work with the IDEA Initiative has opened my eyes to new dimensions of health equity. Working on the challenge of drug-resistant infections, I've learned the importance of ensuring access, not just curbing excess use of antibiotics in human medicine and of sufficiency, not just efficiency, in using these drugs in raising food animals. Through my work with the JHU Alliance for a Healthier World, I've had a chance to advocate for Open Science norms, working with faculty to identify areas to advance Open Access. And through our work documenting the inequities of COVID-19 vaccine allocation, I've developed an even greater passion to address inequities in accessing health technologies—not only here in the U.S., but around the world as well.

REFLECTION FROM JOSHUA'S SUPERVISOR:

Only one of two freshmen ever hired into our Program, Josh showed exceptional promise from the start. He quickly became an invaluable member of our Innovation+Design Enabling Access (IDEA) Initiative team. Over the next few years, he would apply his keen intellect, gift for writing and communicating, and talent for coaxing the best out of his colleagues. Unfailingly, he has been the engine behind our monthly newsletter for the Antibiotic Resistance Coalition for policy influentials working on this global health challenge. He is equally at home summing up a policy discussion or a public health intervention study, editing a video sharing our program's work or shepherding a student training workshop, serving as rapporteur for a civil society dialogue or presenting on open science norms, from open access journals to clinical trial data. He invariably makes the time to meet the fast-paced policy deadlines faced by our program while not missing a beat in his premedical, public health and economic studies. He is always the first to step up and leads by example. As a Global Health Equity Scholar, he worked relentlessly logging press releases, government agency websites and news reports of COVID-19 purchase deals to co-author a snapshot of how reserved doses of COVID-19 vaccines were inequitably distributed across the globe, an invaluable policy contribution as the first COVID-19 vaccines came to market.

