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Greg Lester
University College, Dean's Office
Ohio University

Dear Search Committee:

University College's (UNC) mission and commitment to partnering with constituents of Ohio University to provide the best transformative learning community through its contributions to the Four Fundamentals compelled me to apply for the Academic Advisor position. I am a transformational leader and a participatory decision-maker who is very interested in being a servant leader for this fine institution. With more than 12 years of advising and teaching, my qualifications are a good match with the preferred requirements for this position. After participating in Jennifer Bloom's Appreciative Advising training and the Values training at the American Council on Education Leadership Forum in Charleston, SC, I realized I enjoyed spending my time advising, mentoring and teaching students. Supporting student success to strengthen the GPA for admission to colleges/majors and the need for matriculation of diverse students through the academic pipeline to achieve career aspirations inspired my research on the impact of mentorship and leadership. I believe I have an obligation as an educator to suggest introductory courses and general education requirements and/or the retaking of a course to raise a GPA when needed as an advisor for students to experience self-efficacy as well as academic success. During my career, advising never felt like a job, but more like a joy and a way to give back the advisement/mentorship that was so freely given to me.

Although I appreciate being asked to serve in an interim senior leadership role as Dean of Academic Affairs at WVUP by my mentor, Dr. Marie Gnage, the leadership development opportunity allowed me to determine that I prefer engaging students and informing their transition and transformational experience. My specialized training includes Recovery Coach Academy, WRAP/Women's issues, Diversity train the trainers, Safe Zone, John Gardner's Institute for Excellence, and Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Career Pathways (e.g. dual enrollment). Special/transferable skills include:

- Appreciative Advising, transformative practice in higher education, student centered theories to discern appropriate program to refer student (e.g. Commuter Student Services, Student Writing Center, Veterans Services, Office of Disability, etc.)
- Communication, interpersonal skills and emotional intelligence to guide students to take advantage of the Bobcat orientation and the Allen Student Help Center
- Build transformational relationships with administration, faculty, students, and the campus community to produce results
- Utilization of various e-course platforms such as eCollege, eCampus, OLSIS, Banner, Blackboard, WebCt, MyLabs/Pearson Learning, etc.

Working at Ohio University has additional personal and professional dimensions of interests for me, which I hope to describe during an interview. Professionally, I strive to develop students to be critical thinkers, autonomous and problem-solvers with integrity who engage in society as socially responsible leaders in a global economy. Second, I am committed to the career advancement of students. Inspiring and mentoring people to realize and become their best self is the best legacy I hope to pass to future leaders. If you are interested in a person with integrity, a commitment to teamwork, and empowering students to realize success, then consider my application for the position, Academic Advisor in the University College at Ohio University. I look forward to having a conversation with you to explore how I could make a significant contribution to your team.

Sincerely,

Waltrina E. Dufor