

Students are continuously bringing more diversity to institutions with their multiple identities and differing levels of complexity with struggles and personal situations. There are varying identities, such as race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, ability/disability, religion, socioeconomic status, and many more, that forms who a student is. I aim to provide the appropriate support that each individual student needs to understand who they are authentically, help others understand who these students are, and ensure the success and development of all students.

I am a servant leader naturally at heart. I serve and focus on the needs and well-being of others before my own. For me, being a servant leader is not necessarily a leadership style, rather, it is a lifestyle that I have embraced that has guided my behavior, actions, values and belief system. As an advisor, I believe the purpose of advising is to support, develop, promote, and advocate for student success. This is achieved by assisting students with the navigation of their academic journey and career goals, which will lead to both real-time and post-graduation success. I aspire to understand each student individually as a whole, from their weaknesses to their strengths, from their challenges to their successes, and from their personal background to their future personal, academic, and professional goals. My goal is to further my education and expand on my professional experiences so that I have the foundational knowledge to better assist students, and build a holistic support system that results in the ultimate student success.

Throughout my professional career as an advisor, I will administer the following values within my role, with the hope that fellow constituencies on campus can learn from them and demonstrate them in their work to promote effective support for all students. In addition, I hope to introduce my values to my students so that they too can develop and apply these values during their academic journey and professional lives.

Embrace diversity – The best environment to grow and develop within, to me, is one that fully embraces people with different identities. This provides opportunities to broaden my perspective of the world, and understand different aspects of people's lives from their point of views. It allows me to become a well-rounded and more inclusive person that is able to learn something new every day. Students can absolutely learn so much from a diverse group of people, because every person that they will encounter will be unique, and they will learn how to work with others, value others' opinions, and create a positive environment for all. I will create a safe and comfortable environment for them to be their true selves with me and not be hesitant to share anything that may be affecting them, whether positive or negative.

Encompass empathy – I will work to build and maintain positive and healthy relationships with all students. It is essential to allow students to openly share their stories, express their feelings, discuss their experiences, and share their differing perspectives. I will provide active listening and remain unbiased so that students are able to receive the support and attention that they deserve. I hope that the relationships built between myself and the students will provide them with a foundation that they can replicate throughout their lives for the many relationships that they will build.

Express innovation and creativity – I value being able to think freely and creatively, so that I am able to produce new ideas, processes, concepts, and perspectives, to continuously exceed the needs of my work. Times change, and so do students, so I will have to assess how to appropriately adapt my approach to effectively meet the needs of my students. Students will find this as an asset because as they go through different experiences in their lives, they will have the ability to make a significant difference and valuable changes.

Develop accountability and competence – By being able to understand that I should take account for what I want to accomplish in life, I have gone through trial and error, gained a voice, opened my eyes up to reality, set expectations, and gained a sense of ownership. While taking advantage of resources is nothing to shy away from, each person must be held accountable for their behaviors, actions, and thoughts. This will build motivation for students to own their lives and make it into what they desire while being able to say in the end that they are capable of successfully mastering anything that they put their minds to.

Balance of autonomy and collaboration – Autonomy allows me to have the freedom to have some time to myself, allow my creative juices to flow, and regroup my thoughts so that I can continuously add value to the organization and culture. While I am able to work autonomously, I can work just as effectively with a team. Collaboration provides opportunities to come together and share ideas and thoughts, build camaraderie, create a positive atmosphere, and provides a cohesive system that ensures everyone is supported and effectively works towards their goals. It is my hope that students will find my approach of allowing them to steer their own path, while I act as a passenger that provides them with support, as an opportunity for them to find value and experience in understanding the importance of balancing autonomy and collaboration.

Encourage involvement – I find that the best way for me to meet others, become acclimated to a new environment, break out of my shell, and learn new things is to get involved. I am going to encourage my students to put their selves out there and challenge them to become involved in a variety of areas that may be of interest to them. They can learn so much by exploring the world, that when they enter the workforce post-graduation, they will not be afraid to take charge and conquer new tasks, responsibilities, and opportunities.

Develop integrity – It will be my duty to be transparent, honest, and maintain strong moral values within my work with students. Knowing that I am doing right by the students and having their best interests at heart, will allow my work ethic to shine through. I will gain their trust and in turn, they will know that they have a reliable, ethical, and sincere advisor working side by side with them.

My advising philosophy is to exceed meeting the needs of my students and ensuring success is achieved regarding their academic, professional, and personal goals and aspirations. I will accomplish this by working to understand all aspects of the students' lives, providing resources to accommodate their needs, providing guidance for personal, academic, and professional success, advocating and empowering all students, and establishing a safe environment to foster a healthy and positive relationship with the students. I look forward to the continued education, developmental professional experiences, and personal growth that is ahead of me that will assist me with my career as an advisor.