M.Ed. Student Affairs Testimonials

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I am currently a residence director at Pace University-Pleasantville in New York. In my role, I work with first year students and help facilitate our residential curriculum along with first-year interest groups we have in my building. I am also a member of and chair several committees in our department such as RA training, Professional Staff Selection, and RA Class. At Pace, I have also been able to conduct multiple assessment projects, presentations, and work with other campus partners and advise student groups.

HOW HAS CLEMSON PREPARED YOU? Clemson’s higher education program was a life changing experience for me and my time in the program has both made me a competitive candidate while job searching but also helped me become a more well rounded individual. The intense focus on the practical experience via internships and practicums during my program experience helped me explore multiple facets of student affairs such as residential life and multicultural affairs but also afforded me the opportunity to dabble in academic affairs such as academic advising and support and academic integrity. This program provided me the foundational knowledge I needed to start my career but also helped scaffold my experience via hands on learning.

ADVICE TO CURRENT GRADS: One of the highlights of the program is the faculty. My advice is to get to know the faculty, not just your faculty advisor. Each faculty member is an expert in their work but offers a unique perspective that will be invaluable to your future career. Take the time to build those relationships and don’t be afraid to get to know them as a person and not just faculty. One last piece of advice is to go all in during your time at Clemson. Dive into your experience, the good and bad parts of it and use those experiences to help you grow as a better professional. There won’t be many times in your career you are able to make mistakes and learn from them in this way as you can in graduate school so take advantage of it!

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVEMENT: After graduate school, I have had the chance to attend multiple conference in different regions of the Northeast along with presenting at conferences based on residential education or student staff leadership. I have also been able to chaperone students to multiple leadership conferences along with volunteering to be a part of regional committees and panels. I have also participated in case study competitions and won or placed in them along with published submissions to journals and books.
In my current role, I work with students that have allegedly violated the Student Code of Conduct or Academic Integrity policy. This role allows me to have intentional, one-on-one conversations with students about decision making, ethics, federal and state laws, career goals, mental health and much more. I co-supervise our Conduct Team and serve as the Hearing Officer for Student Conduct and Academic Integrity hearings. Prior to my current position, I was a Conduct Specialist at The University of Texas at Dallas where I investigated and adjudicated cases of alleged student misconduct and academic integrity violations. In that role, I also worked with students of concern and students experiencing crises.

HOW HAS CLEMSON PREPARED YOU? My time at Clemson prepared me for my career in ways I did not fully recognize until I began working as a full-time student affairs practitioner. While at Clemson, I was a Graduate Assistant in Student Accessibility Services, where we served students with documented disabilities. My assistantship helped me identify the passion I have for working with students on the Autism Spectrum and mental health concerns. More specifically, I became interested in the intersection of students with mental health concerns or students on the Autism Spectrum that allegedly violated the University’s Student Code of Conduct. With the help of some phenomenal supervisors, faculty and mentors at Clemson, I was able to tailor my experiences to prepare me for the job search in a highly competitive functional area. My time at Clemson allowed me to enter the job search with confidence and competence. I have a great amount of gratitude for the people I met, the connections I made and the many things I learned while at Clemson.

ADVICE TO CURRENT GRADS: Know yourself, know your worth and remember why you chose to do this work. There will come a time when the case studies are your reality and your participation isn’t for a grade, but for your career. Know that you are more than capable and deserving of any opportunities that will soon come your way. The field of higher education and student affairs is being challenged, shaken and stirred. In many ways, I’m sure you too have been challenged, shaken and stirred throughout your time at Clemson. Take note of how you got through your challenges in grad school and use them as fuel in your career. The field needs dedicated professionals that are committed to serving and supporting students. This is the time where we must dig deep within ourselves and remember why we chose to do this work. As long as you can remember your “why,” this career path will never be just a job.
WONJAE KIM  
Program Coordinator for the  
Multicultural Vision Program  
Iowa State University  

HOW HAS CLEMSON PREPARED YOU?  Clemson became a huge learning laboratory for me to learn and fail and succeed. I was able to not only discover who I wanted to be, but was provided an environment filled with faculty, supervisors, and colleagues that supported my growth every step of the way.

ADVICE TO CURRENT GRADS: Understand that this experience is temporary. No matter where you end up, if you stay at Clemson or move elsewhere, your experience as a graduate assistant is temporary. Enjoy the experience but know that you will have other mountains to climb.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVEMENT: ACPA – Commission on Admissions, Orientation, and First-Year Experience