

GCU Alumni

2023 | 30 Under 30

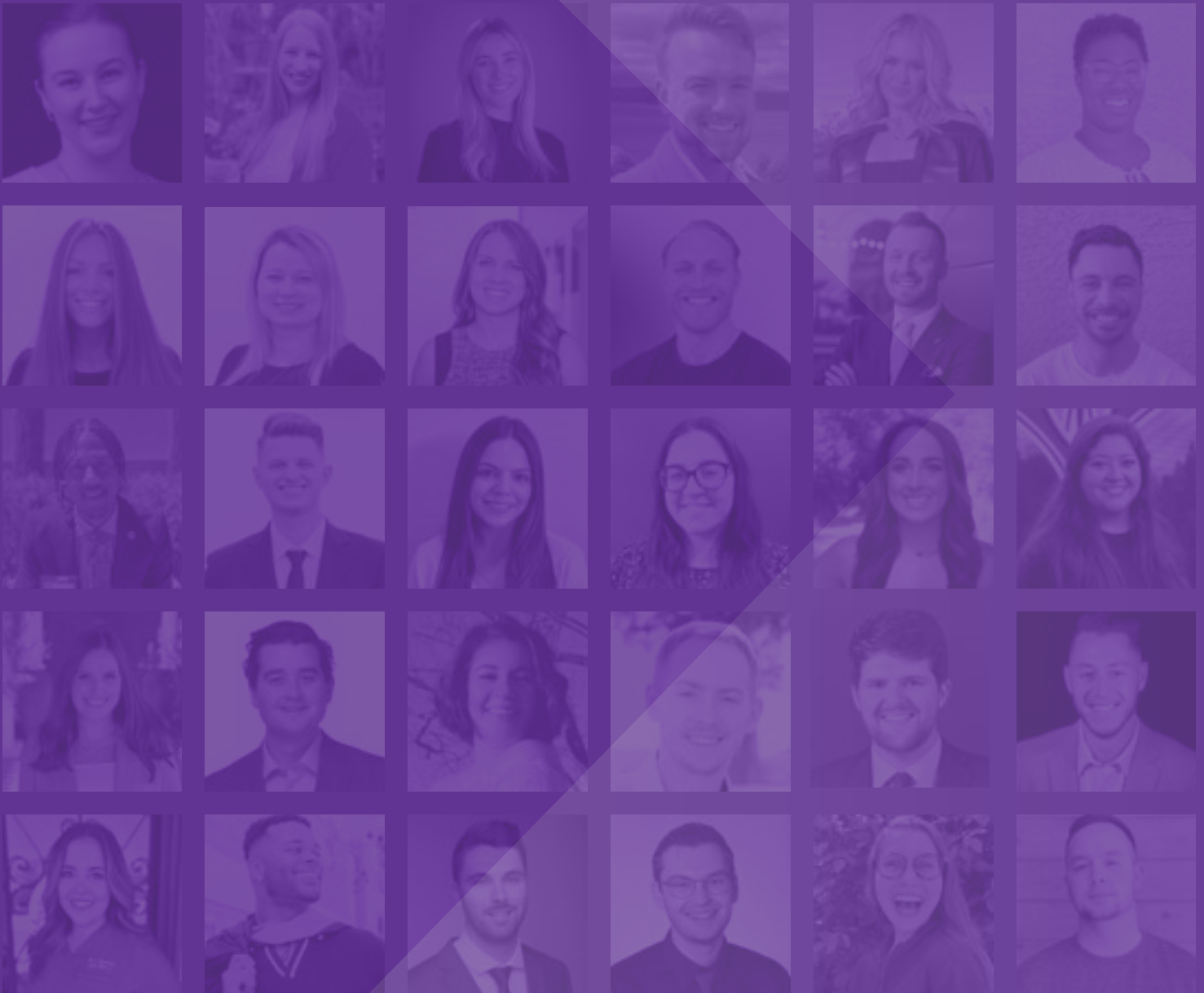




Table of Contents

Bianca Boling*	3	Victoria Leonard	37
Ashley Bulka	5	Taylor Magnuson	39
Spencer Busler	7	Nathalie Ojeda	41
Suzanne Currey*	9	Megan Oliver	43
Leslie Damkoehler	11	Tristen Pfeifer	45
Jordan Elmore	13	Sara Ritterling	48
Amanda Foster	15	Cody Roark	50
Brady Harrison	17	Joseph Ross	52
Bailey Hill	19	Brandon Schilling	54
Steve Hunsaker	22	Claire Schmaltz	56
Anita Jackson	24	Laura Schneider	58
Matt Jackson	26	Kelsie Sebreros	61
Adam Johnson	28	Brandon Smith	63
Dion Jones	30	Jessica Symmes*	65
Brandon Kaiser	32		
Karin Leimbach	34		

* Graduated with an Honors degree.





Bianca Boling

2018 | BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN PSYCHOLOGY

OTHER DEGREES Master of Arts in Clinical Psychology; Doctor of Psychology in Clinical Psychology, Midwestern University

CURRENT POSITION Psychological Associate at the Wisconsin Department of Corrections

INDUSTRY Public Service

PROFESSIONAL BIO:

Dr. Boling currently works as a psychologist in a secure correctional facility in Wisconsin, where she provides evidence-based treatment to high-risk sexual offenders, conducts psychological evaluations and risk assessments and performs crisis intervention duties. She obtained her doctorate degree from Midwestern University in 2022. Her graduate coursework primarily focused on research, treatment and evaluation of adolescents and adults who perpetrated sexual abuse and violence.

MOST SIGNIFICANT CAREER MILESTONES

Dr. Boling has conducted significant research in the field of forensic psychology and presented it to many professionals in the field. She presented her dissertation research to over 150 psychologists during a colloquium event. She conducted research on the current mental health trends and classifications of incarcerated individuals in the Department of Corrections. During graduate school, she won several awards for her research in sports psychology, which she has been passionate about since playing collegiate softball at GCU.

CAREER HISTORY

Dr. Boling graduated from GCU in 2018. During this time, she completed internship programs with several mental health organizations in the community, including Southwest Behavioral and Health Services. After earning her bachelor's degree, she was accepted to Midwestern University for graduate school. During this time, she gained extensive knowledge and experience in mental health diagnostics and evaluation. She worked for one of the largest substance abuse treatment facilities in the state, where she contracted with the courts to facilitate intensive substance use treatment and conduct evaluations. She also worked in several private forensic practices, where she conducted psychological evaluations for children and adults, gaining experience facilitating community sex offender treatment for post-incarcerated individuals. She completed her doctoral residency with the Wisconsin Department of Corrections, where she worked in medium- and maximum-security prisons and provided crisis intervention services, psychological assessment and high-risk sexual offender treatment. She currently works full time with the Wisconsin Department of Corrections, after earning her doctorate degree in 2022.



Bianca Boling

2018 | BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN PSYCHOLOGY

IMPACT ON FIELD

Dr. Boling's mission is to provide treatment and rehabilitative services in an effort to reduce criminal recidivism rates and make contributions towards a safer community. She has conducted extensive research on perpetrators of sexual abuse to evaluate current risk assessment practices and ensure appropriate resources are being allocated to reduce recidivism. Her continued dedication to the treatment and evaluation of those who have perpetrated violent and sexual crimes and individuals diagnosed with mental health disorders contributes to a safer, more productive community.

AWARDS, ACCOLADES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

AASP 2021 Conference Student Award Recipient, May 2021; Dissertation Proposal and Defense Passed with Distinction Honors, September 2020; AASP 2020 Conference Student Abstract Award, July 2020; Roland L. Beck Scholar-Athlete Distinguished Achievement Award, April 2018; NCAA Woman of the Year Nominee, April 2018; Grand Canyon University Outstanding Senior Award, April 2018; Western Athletic Conference Stan Bates Award, April 2018; Kevin and Gretta Warren Post-Graduate Scholarship, April 2018; Honors College Distinguished Achievement Award, April 2018

ORGANIZATIONS

GCU Honors College Alumni Advisory Board, Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (ATSA), American Psychological Association, Association for Applied Sport Psychology (AASP), International Association for Correctional and Forensic Psychology

LEADERSHIP STYLE

Dr. Boling strongly believes in the practice of servant leadership. She takes a collaborative approach with students and colleagues to inspire professionals in her field. She works with a multidisciplinary team to advocate for client rights and promote best practices for each and every individual with whom she works.

ADVICE

Follow your passions and seek advice from mentors in your field. There are endless opportunities and leaders eager to contribute toward your professional growth and development.



Ashley Bulka

2016 | BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN BUSINESS WITH AN EMPHASIS IN MARKETING

2018 | MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

CURRENT POSITION College of Doctoral Studies Student Services Counselor at Grand Canyon Education (GCE)

INDUSTRY Finance

PROFESSIONAL BIO:

After graduating from GCU with a bachelor's in April 2016, Ashley Bulka took the opportunity to start as a university counselor with GCU's College of Doctoral Studies. She found a passion for helping others with their academic and professional goals. During her time as a counselor, Ashley challenged herself to start a master's degree in public administration. While completing additional business courses, she moved into a new role as a student services counselor (SSC). Since transitioning in 2017, Ashley hasn't looked back. She is beyond thankful for this role which has provided her with enormous growth opportunities. Through her commitment to excellence, she was able to become the first level six SSC in all of GCU and GCE history.

MOST SIGNIFICANT CAREER MILESTONES

As I reflect on my seven years with GCE, I can't help but think about all I have accomplished in such a short time. I was hired just after graduation and hit the ground running with GCE. I gained professional experience working alongside talented higher education professionals. I have seen both sides of the admission process, supported and trained new nurses and sought level advancement in my current position. My biggest career milestone has been earning my level six promotion. Serving over 520 active doctoral learners, being a team lead and helping grow this division is truly my biggest career milestone. When you find something that challenges you professionally but also provides you with personal growth, it makes your career worth it.

CAREER HISTORY

Before starting my GCE career, I served as a waitress at two different Italian restaurants and found a passion for serving others. As simple as it sounds, working in a restaurant is where I found my strength in customer service. Prior to waitressing, I also worked as a front office receptionist for a long-term care facility. My experience in health care allowed me to recognize how far a little bit of empathy and kindness can go.

IMPACT ON FIELD

My commitment to being my best brought me to where I am today. Each day when I clock in, I think of how I am going to better myself and my job performance. This mentality has continued to help me raise the bar and create a competitive working environment that allows for continuous growth, fun and opportunity.

AWARDS, ACCOLADES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

First Level Six SSC in GCE History; New Hire Panel Member; SSC Team Lead



Ashley Bulka

2016 | BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN BUSINESS WITH AN EMPHASIS IN MARKETING

2018 | MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

ORGANIZATIONS

Feed My Starving Children, Local Dog Rescue Mission, Nursing Home Activities Department Volunteer

LEADERSHIP STYLE

When I reflect on myself and my leadership qualities, I can't help but think of the servant leadership style I embody. I make it a point to put the needs of others before my own. Whether at work or in my personal life, I enjoy seeing others happy. At work, I am one of the first people to help with an account, an escalation or someone's day-to-day activities. I take pride in knowing that I can set an example for others.

ADVICE

My advice to current students is to simply enjoy your time at GCU. I look back on my years as an undergraduate student and tear up at how amazing my experience was between classes and the lifelong friendships I built. Take the time to say "hi" to the new classmate you haven't interacted with yet. Build a relationship with the professor who spent 30 years in the field you want to enter. These things may not seem like a big deal now, but a decade later you won't forget the connections you made, and you might end up working with them. GCU gives you an experience that will last a lifetime!



Spencer Busler

2020 | BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

**2024 (PROJECTED) | MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING IN
ADULT-GERONTOLOGY ACUTE CARE NURSE PRACTITIONER**

CURRENT POSITION Neuro Intensive Care Unit Registered Nurse at Banner University Medical Center Phoenix

INDUSTRY Medical

PROFESSIONAL BIO:

Spencer Busler started his nursing career in 2020 during the pandemic after graduating from GCU with a BSN. This was an interesting time to enter the profession and start his job in the neuro intensive care unit (ICU). Over the next two years, Spencer worked with both neurologically impaired and COVID patients. In 2021, he decided to further his knowledge and earned his stroke-certified registered nurse (SCRN) and emergency neurological life support (ENLS) certifications. During this time, Spencer was approached by the Student Nurses Association Chapter at GCU, of which he was a previous president, and was asked to come back as an alumni advisor. Spencer also went back to school to become an adult-gerontology acute care nurse practitioner (ACNP), a degree he expects to finish in February 2024. Spencer has grown as a nurse by precepting new nurses and joining hospital committees. One of the committees Spencer takes the most pride in is the Neuro Education Committee, where they get together to determine educational needs for their service line and plan education resources and symposiums.

MOST SIGNIFICANT CAREER MILESTONES

Some of my most significant career milestones include earning my SCRNP certification in 2021, being selected as the board mentee for the American Association of Neuroscience Nurses (AANN) from 2022 to 2023, being elected as president of the Phoenix Chapter (Southwest Synapse) of AANN, being nominated for a Daisy Award and, most recently, being able to give my first presentation at the National Student Nurses Association Conference in Nashville about neuro assessment and the benefits of joining a professional nursing organization.

CAREER HISTORY

I started as a new graduate RN in the neuro ICU in 2020 after I took my NCLEX. Throughout this time, I did everything I could to further my knowledge, including sitting for my SCRNP certification. I also began to get involved with the American Association of Neuroscience Nurses, where I served as the board mentee for the past year. I now serve on multiple committees and I am the president of the Arizona chapter. I am also currently in school working on my MSN to become an adult-gerontology ACNP, with the hopes of working in neurocritical care, neurosurgery or stroke neurology when I graduate.



Spencer Busler

2020 | BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

2024 (PROJECTED) | MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING IN
ADULT-GERONTOLOGY ACUTE CARE NURSE PRACTITIONER

IMPACT ON FIELD

My impact on the nursing profession is still in progress. I am passionate about furthering the field of neuroscience nursing and I am constantly learning new information and skills. I had the opportunity to attend the Nurses in Washington Initiative internship in 2023, where I learned about nursing advocacy and got to meet with the offices of the Arizona senators and my local legislature. This really opened my eyes and has ignited further passions for advocacy on which I hope to grow in the coming years. I am also very passionate about education and teaching, as I love to educate nursing students and show them what neuro is all about!

AWARDS, ACCOLADES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Summa Cum Laude at GCU, April 2020; Daisy Award Nominee, September 2021; March of Dimes Rising Star Award Finalist, 2021; Nurses in Washington Internship, March 2022; National Student Nurses Association Conference Presenter, April 2023

ORGANIZATIONS

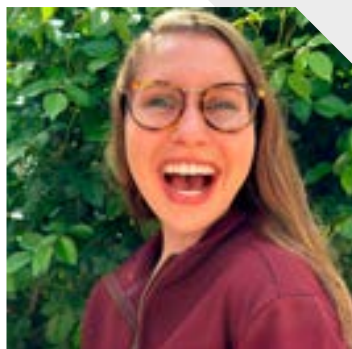
I am currently involved in the American Association of Neuroscience Nurses. This past year, I was selected to serve on the national board as their board mentee and on the advocacy, diversity and inclusion and the poster selection committees. As of March 2023, I was also elected as president of our local chapter and chosen to serve on the annual planning committee for the national annual conference. I also currently serve as the alum advisor for the GCU chapter of the Student Nurses Association.

LEADERSHIP STYLE

I demonstrate leadership through my passion for furthering nursing education and mentorship. At my hospital, I frequently orient new nurses and become a resource for them as they enter the world of nursing, which can be overwhelming. I truly believe we need to work together as nurses to better our profession and educate ourselves to provide the best care and advocacy for our patients. I seek out leadership opportunities at my job by trying to be as involved as possible. My philosophy is that if we want to make something better, we need to ensure our voices are heard and our input is considered.

ADVICE

My advice for current students is to take a deep breath and keep moving forward. Nursing school is tough and the field of nursing can also be tough. However, it is so worth it. Remember that many students have graduated and become nurses before you and students will continue to do so after you. Take it one day at a time and do your best.



Suzanne Currey

2018 | BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN BIOLOGY WITH AN
EMPHASIS IN PRE-MEDICINE

OTHER DEGREES Doctor of Podiatric Medicine, Midwestern University

CURRENT POSITION Foot and Ankle Surgery Resident at Mount Auburn Harvard; Harvard Clinical Fellow

INDUSTRY Medical

PROFESSIONAL BIO:

Suzanne Currey graduated from the GCU Honors College in 2018. From there, she followed her passion: becoming a physician. She attended the highest-ranked podiatry school, the Arizona College of Podiatric Medicine at Midwestern University. She has recently graduated from medical school at the top of her class, in the Pi Delta Honors Society. She is thrilled to be attending one of the top podiatric residency programs, Mount Auburn Harvard. She is very excited about what the future holds.

MOST SIGNIFICANT CAREER MILESTONES

I am so grateful to have graduated with honors from GCU; it helped set in motion my path to becoming a physician. I am proud to announce I will be graduating medical school in the top of my class and be inducted into the Pi Delta Honors Society. However, I must say, my most significant career milestone is matching to my number one residency program, Mount Auburn Harvard.

CAREER HISTORY

I attended my undergrad at GCU and had the opportunity to graduate with honors in three and a half years. From there, I was accepted into the number one podiatry program in the U.S., Arizona College of Podiatric Medicine at Midwestern University. I will be graduating with honors from medical school. From there, I will be completing a three-year residency at Mount Auburn Harvard, where I will be specializing in foot and ankle surgery. I am very excited to see what the future holds and hope to be a prominent figure in my field.

IMPACT ON FIELD

I have worked incredibly hard to get where I am today.



Suzanne Currey

2018 | BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN BIOLOGY WITH AN
EMPHASIS IN PRE-MEDICINE

AWARDS, ACCOLADES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Pi Delta National Podiatric Honor Society Candidate; AZCPM AACPM College Information Book Representative; Awarded AZCPM Student of the Month for Representation; Midwestern University Grand Round Presenter; Carol A. Jensen Innovation in Podiatric Medicine Research Scholarship; HonorHealth Advisory Council Scholarship; National Society of Collegiate Scholars; GCU President's and Dean's List; GCU Provost Scholarship; AZCPM Class of 2024 Mentor; Presented "Everything You Need to Know About Clerkships" Talk; Midwestern University AZCPM Class of 2023 Treasurer; MWU Clinical Coordinator for CASS Homeless Shelter, Coordinated Sock Drive With Over 500 Pairs Donated; President of AZCPM Pediatric Foot and Ankle Club; Published "Four Tips for Podiatry School Interviews" and "Why Podiatry?" in Hallux Magazine Mentor. Class Representative for the College of Health Sciences at Midwestern University. Grand Canyon University Alumni Presenter, Educated Undergraduate Students on Podiatry; GCU Cadaver Lab Student Leader; Founder of Hospice DreamCatchers Foundation's GCU Chapter

ORGANIZATIONS

Central Arizona Shelter Services (CASS) Clinic Volunteer, Special Olympics Volunteer in Glendale, Payson and Phoenix, Arizona, Medical Missions Outreach Medical Mission Trip to Tanzania, Africa, Member of Midwestern University AZCPM Journal Club, Presented: "Treatment of Pediatric Flatfoot" with Midwestern University Muse Research, Member of American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons, Member of American College of Foot and Ankle Pediatrics, Member of American Academy of Podiatric Sports Medicine, Member of Midwestern University Wound Healing Club, Member of American Podiatric Medical Students Association, HonorHealth Volunteer, Grand Canyon University Mastering Anatomy Program

ADVICE

As cliché as it sounds, follow your dreams. One way or another, it will work out, it always does. "I prayed to the Lord, and he answered me. He freed me from all my fears." — Psalm 34:3

FURTHER COMMENTS

I am very proud to announce that I am a foot and ankle surgery resident at Mount Auburn Harvard, as well as a Harvard Clinical Fellow. I am so thankful to GCU for helping me find my purpose and follow my dreams. I truly don't know if I would be where I am without attending GCU!



Leslie Damkoehler

2022 | BACHELOR OF ARTS IN ENGLISH WITH AN
EMPHASIS IN PROFESSIONAL WRITING

CURRENT POSITION Marketing Coordinator at Catholic Education Arizona

INDUSTRY Marketing

PROFESSIONAL BIO:

Leslie Damkoehler works as the marketing coordinator for a nonprofit school tuition organization that provides scholarships to underserved students, allowing families to choose quality education for their children. She creates integrated marketing content for their website, social media platforms and print content. Leslie's written work is consistently featured on the Catholic Education Arizona (CEA) website and her articles are published in the Stroll Biltmore Magazine. She publishes press releases through Yahoo Life, FOX 16, FOX 8 and more have picked up PR Newswire and multiple releases. Leslie also does digital design work to create social media content consistently posted on CEA's social media platforms. Leslie designed all marketing content for the 2023 Parish Tax Credit Weekend used by other nonprofits, such as the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, the Foundation for Senior Living and more. Her content was also published in the 2023 Impact Report distributed to 6,000 people. Leslie's additional skills include video work, including editing clips from CEA's podcast to promote corporate contributor testimonials.

MOST SIGNIFICANT CAREER MILESTONES

My most significant career milestone was earning my first job in marketing after college. I did not realize the impact my position would have in helping underserved students access quality education. In my current position, I am lucky to create marketing materials used by 38 private elementary and high schools in Phoenix. I've made content for social media, bulletins, press releases and presentations for other nonprofits in the Phoenix area. Recently I represented my company at Virginia G. Piper Trust, one of Phoenix's largest foundations. I felt honored to work with a foundation that supports so many wonderful nonprofits in the state.

CAREER HISTORY

In 2021, I produced the YouTube channel for Grand Launch Media and organized each month's content calendar as the director of communications and media relations. In production, I worked behind and in front of a camera, editing and publishing videos. Managing social media content taught me the importance of careful organization and planning. I gained experience in voiceover work and reading from a teleprompter for instructional videos. In 2019 and 2020, I was the director of content marketing for Timothy Christian Schools. I wrote articles for the website and their biannual alumni magazine, The Reflector. I learned to find compelling stories and interview sources. Beyond writing, I was also responsible for editing articles, producing marketing videos and taking photographs for articles, the website and social media pages (portraits, sports and event photography). I produced marketing videos and moderated live shows for "Cooking with Lauren," a live show on Vimeo.



Leslie Damkoehler

**2022 | BACHELOR OF ARTS IN ENGLISH WITH AN
EMPHASIS IN PROFESSIONAL WRITING**

IMPACT ON FIELD

At the nonprofit I currently work for, I have added video content and skills they did not previously possess. The content I create is used by other private schools in Arizona that do not have large marketing budgets. Since I am pushing out content on multiple platforms and for multiple causes, this leads more people to contribute to CEA, providing scholarships to underserved children.

AWARDS, ACCOLADES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Summa Cum Laude at GCU; Ghostwriting Forbes Contributor Articles

ORGANIZATIONS

Preschool Volunteer at North Phoenix Baptist Church

LEADERSHIP STYLE

I demonstrate leadership by showing my associates they are valued! A lot of people think they are just lucky to have a job. Truthfully, the company is lucky to have you, too. When interacting with associates, I make sure never to let someone think they asked a stupid question. While collaborating with new marketing ideas and tactics, great ideas can come from anywhere. Employees in different areas of a company will see the company differently; they could see an area that we are forgetting.

ADVICE

If you go home stressed and can't shake negative or unnerving thoughts about work, you probably need a new job. Your job position is important but work is not your life. Find a job that will encourage you to set a healthy work-life balance.

FURTHER COMMENTS

Although my career pays the bills, I always make time for my hobbies! I love making YouTube videos for my personal channel. I love visual storytelling and getting to do it for my own brand makes me happy!



Jordan Elmore

2021 | MASTER OF ARTS IN AUTISM STUDIES

2024 (PROJECTED) | MASTER OF EDUCATION IN SPECIAL EDUCATION

CURRENT POSITIONS Exceptional Student Services Coordinator and Autism Support at Great Hearts Maryvale Preparatory Academy

INDUSTRY Education

PROFESSIONAL BIO:

Jordan Elmore is an exceptional student services coordinator who works with students on developing academic skills, acting as a support system for autistic students. Jordan believes in the ideology that students are able and capable and teachers are the booster to get them to their highest potential. When working with students on the spectrum, Jordan uses his extensive background in applied behavior analysis (ABA) to work directly with students to build confidence and consistency with life, academic and emotional regulation skills. Jordan Elmore received his bachelor's in psychology with a minor in drug and alcohol abuse, which led to receiving a Master of Arts in Autism Studies. During his time in school, Jordan Elmore was given dual honors with Kappa Delta Pi and Alpha Chi, as he was in the top percentage of his class. Over the years, Jordan has increased his advocacy for young students by joining the National Association for the Education of Young Children to be more informed on best practices for early interventions. Currently, he is working on his Master of Education in Special Education at GCU, so he can be the first in his family to have two master's degrees. Jordan is also aiming to develop his own line of consultation services to help special education programs support students on the spectrum.

MOST SIGNIFICANT CAREER MILESTONES

In my career, I have been able to work in several fields. I've gone from being an ABA therapist to developing programming and treatment plans, then moved into education to be the spoken voice and advocate for autistic students. I have been able to educate fellow staff by giving training on autism and how to work with these students to ensure they learn the skills needed in life and also access the curriculum.

CAREER HISTORY

My career working with children with disabilities started in 2019, when I worked as an ABA therapist at the Southwest Autism Research and Resource Center. I was able to develop an extensive knowledge of ABA and build rapport with parents and students with disabilities. Shortly after, I wanted more experience with a larger age group, so I moved to Southwest Behavioral Health to apply my knowledge of ABA to adults as well, while also gaining clinical knowledge on intakes. I quickly realized I wanted to work with kids in a school setting, which brought me to where I am now.



Jordan Elmore

2021 | MASTER OF ARTS IN AUTISM STUDIES

2024 (PROJECTED) | MASTER OF EDUCATION IN SPECIAL EDUCATION

IMPACT ON FIELD

In my field, I have been able to train teachers and faculty on the importance of being mindful of how each student is unique to their own disability. In these trainings, I provided deep insight into different ethical and research methods of teaching that illustrated the importance of not being stagnant in teaching methods and being flexible while maintaining student dignity. I have been praised by fellow staff for the exemplary way I present information, showing my dedication to ensuring student success in and out of the classroom.

AWARDS, ACCOLADES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Graduated With Dual Honors With Kappa Delta Pi and Alpha Chi

ORGANIZATIONS

National Association for the Education of Young Children, Kappa Delta Pi, Alpha Chi

LEADERSHIP STYLE

Leadership consists of always being confident enough to be an example while being humble enough to accept feedback and step down to let others lead when necessary. In my form of leadership, I always aim to speak about the importance of being true to yourself, advocating for yourself, striving to learn more and being proactive in finding what makes you happy.

ADVICE

To current students and recent graduates, change is inevitable. There may be times when the path you take is not the path you want to stick with forever. I went from wanting to do psychology and counseling, to wanting to be a BCBA and do therapy, to being a special education teacher where I have found my calling and love for work again. Follow your gut and always strive to be the best version of yourself, but still be authentic to what fulfills you. You are capable and able; never forget that.



Amanda Foster

2022 | MASTER OF SCIENCE IN HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY

OTHER DEGREES Bachelor of Science in Sports Journalism, Arizona State University

CURRENT POSITION Remote Operations Coordinator at ESPN

INDUSTRY Marketing

PROFESSIONAL BIO:

Amanda Foster is a born-and-raised Arizona native who received a bachelor's in sports journalism from ASU and a master's in health psychology from GCU. After her bachelor's, Amanda went to work at Purdue University Northwest. She quickly made her way to Bristol, Connecticut to work at ESPN. Telling athletes' stories ignited a passion for learning about the mind. It was at ESPN that Amanda decided to pursue her master's. She is currently an operations coordinator at ESPN, covering a variety of sports. Her goal is to blend her passion for athletics and the mind, while pursuing a psychology doctorate with an emphasis in neuropsychology. Amanda travels across the country to coordinate events for college football and the National Football League.

MOST SIGNIFICANT CAREER MILESTONES

One of my biggest career milestones was becoming an operations coordinator at ESPN. It was my goal to have that title when I first got to ESPN in 2019. A recent milestone I am proud of is helping coordinate events for Super Bowl LVII and the Fiesta Bowl, both held here in the valley. It was really special to achieve this goal, back where my dream began. I also had the opportunity to teach TV production at my former high school in Chandler, Arizona. It was incredible seeing the young talent entering the industry. I will always cherish that opportunity, because my goal of working for ESPN was born in the same classroom in which I taught.

CAREER HISTORY

I started my media journey at the Pac-12 Network in Los Angeles during my final semester of school. It was there I found my love for telling athletes' stories that went beyond just the field. I then moved to Indiana to work at Purdue University Northwest to help head their livestream production for all 13 of their sports. I was able to mentor undergraduate film students about live streaming and sports production while having great opportunities to cover less common sports. One year later, I ended up at ESPN, where I have been ever since. I started as a production assistant on assignments including college football, Women's Final Four, ESPYs and the national spelling bee. After nearly two years, I knew I needed to head back to Arizona, and I was eager to learn more about the mind at a professional level. As I was taking master's courses at GCU, I was called to move into the position of operations coordinator. I now focus on college football, while helping with special events for the NFL. I travel across states to manage daily logistics for each game with our production crew. My future career goal is to merge my passions to help treat athletes with brain and career-ending injuries, helping them live fulfilled lives.



Amanda Foster

2022 | MASTER OF SCIENCE IN HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY

IMPACT ON FIELD

I believe I have had a great impact on women in my field. I have a growing passion for helping young professionals, especially women, to become a powerhouse in the sports industry. At 26, I am one of the youngest operations coordinators at ESPN and take great pride in that accomplishment. I hope I have instilled confidence in my former students and believe I helped pave the way for them to push to reach their goals. Incorporating my background in sports with my higher education in psychology, I have brought to light the necessity for work-life balance, especially when our field consists of a large amount of travel during weekends and holidays.

AWARDS, ACCOLADES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Produced Second Highest Scores for ADE Test in Multimedia and Film in 2022; Earned 3.98 GPA in GCU's Master's Program; Helped Coordinate Operations Logistics at ESPN for Super Bowl LVII and Fiesta Bowl 2022; Coached the Inaugural Season of Girls' Flag Football in the Chandler Unified School District

ORGANIZATIONS

Homeless Matters, Feed My Starving Children, Alpha Delta Pi, Mu Epsilon Theta

LEADERSHIP STYLE

I demonstrate leadership by providing confident guidance and pursuing lifelong knowledge. The beautiful part of psychology is being on a continuous path of finding the best ways to enhance the mind and make each individual feel healthy and confident in themselves. I prioritize health above all and understand each individual has a unique way of learning, growing and completing tasks. I enjoy listening to each person's goals and inspiring their success. I strive to make everyone feel comfortable in the workplace by always being available to help and celebrating everyone's accomplishments.

ADVICE

Focus on your personal growth without fear of the competitive nature of school and the job market. Hard work and humility shine bright, and you will find what characteristics make you unique. Be kind to every person you meet, and never be afraid to ask too many questions. Every interaction you have can be a blessing, whether personally or professionally, so don't take them for granted. The world is smaller than it may seem.

FURTHER COMMENTS

I absolutely love GCU. The Christian components incorporated into my degree helped me grow on a spiritual and academic level. I am forever grateful for the opportunity. Without GCU, I would not have been accepted into my doctorate program and would not be pursuing my next goal.



Brady Harrison

**2017 | BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION,
MINOR IN FINANCE AND ECONOMICS**

CURRENT POSITION Project Engineer at Kiewit Infrastructure

INDUSTRY Engineering

PROFESSIONAL BIO:

Brady Harrison is a project engineer for the fourth-largest general contractor in the U.S. He has worked on eight projects for Kiewit Infrastructure and developed valuable engineering and business skills on each one. Brady still feels passion for start-up businesses and is currently working on a new entrepreneurial pursuit.

MOST SIGNIFICANT CAREER MILESTONES

While it was after my graduation, seeing the Charles Schwab Foundation Finance Center open at GCU was very exciting. This vision was driven by the Colangelo College of Business finance chair, Mark Jacobson. Since I was involved with the idea from inception, seeing it come to fruition for future students has been extremely fulfilling. My second major milestone was being selected to lay the groundwork for the Antarctica Infrastructure for Modernization of Science (AIMS). Being promoted to project engineer on one of the most complex urban transportation projects in the U.S. was a major step.

CAREER HISTORY

Following graduation, I continued in heavy civil construction on the Oroville Spillway reconstruction. I took a hiatus to start an underwear subscription company that developed quick traction, making sales in 50 states within three months. Following that, I spent time volunteering in Cambodia, assisting faith-driven businesses in developing business plans. More recently, I worked in Antarctica on a new infrastructure modernization project. Currently, I work as a project engineer on an \$800 million project expanding and improving light rail transportation in the Phoenix area.

IMPACT ON FIELD

Displaying initiative and hard work grounded in my faith has allowed me to reach leadership roles that have expanded the audience for which I act as a servant leader. The understanding of business management and finance I developed at GCU has been invaluable in helping one of the largest privately held companies in the U.S. improve processes and innovate our way of building large-scale projects.

AWARDS, ACCOLADES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Arizona Stock Market Challenge Champion, 2017; Best Client Relations Working with Valley Metro, 2022; Licensed Private Pilot, Since 2021



Brady Harrison

2017 | BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION,
MINOR IN FINANCE AND ECONOMICS

ORGANIZATIONS

Mine Safety and Health Administration, Federal Aviation Administration, Associated General Contractors of America

LEADERSHIP STYLE

I aim to empower the people around me and help them maximize their potential in their roles. A leader is only as effective as they can empower their team. As simple as it sounds, hard work is key. I am in an industry outside of my degree's typical purview, but if you're willing to work hard, it will help your own development and be contagious to those around you. Be a solution finder, not a problem finder. Problems usually do a good job presenting themselves but as a leader, it is your responsibility to work with the resources you have to not allow problems to hinder your goals.

ADVICE

Never turn down an opportunity to take responsibility or learn something new, no matter how daunting it may be. Even results that may seem like failure teach you tremendously and cultivate personal growth.

FURTHER COMMENTS

I am grateful for all of the opportunities GCU provided me and all my fellow students. The breadth of skills, lessons and mentors abound on and off campus and provide opportunities to impact the valley and beyond. Go Lopes!



Bailey Hill

2019 | MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

**2025 (PROJECTED) | DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN GENERAL
PSYCHOLOGY: INDUSTRIAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY**

OTHER DEGREES Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, University of Alabama in Huntsville

CURRENT POSITION Data Manager at JRC for the Missile Defense Agency

INDUSTRY Engineering

PROFESSIONAL BIO:

Bailey Hill is an accomplished young professional in the defense industry, including supporting the Missile Defense Agency and the Program Executive Office Aviation for the Future Long-Range Assault Aircraft Project Office (PEO AVN FLRAA). Ms. Hill has received multiple awards for exceptional support from the Missile Defense Agency and Program Executive Office Aviation. Ms. Hill has achieved a bachelor's in psychology from The University of Alabama in Huntsville and an MBA from GCU. She is currently pursuing a PhD in industrial and organizational psychology with an emphasis on how clinicians perceive the symptom of avoidance stemming from PTSD in the young workforce. Ms. Hill is currently a member of the Hill Family Foundation, an organization founded to support individuals with mental health needs. She supports the Mark C. Smith Wellness Center with the Kids To Love Foundation through the support of the Grant Hill Trauma Team. The team was founded in memory of her brother-in-law, Grant Hill, to help individuals heal from trauma and mental health struggles. Ms. Hill plans to support the Wellness Center as a voluntary consultant for traumatized individuals, as well as grow within the Hill Family Foundation after her research. She also plans to continue supporting the Department of Defense. Her goal is to bring awareness to PTSD and the workplace through her studies on trauma for years to come. She aims to try to help those who cannot help themselves.

MOST SIGNIFICANT CAREER MILESTONES

Bailey Hill has supported the defense community for six years and has received multiple accolades for outstanding support. Ms. Hill has received awards from both the Missile Defense Agency and Program Executive Office Aviation, Future Long Range Assault Aircraft. She is currently pursuing a doctorate in industrial and organizational psychology. She plans to utilize her studies on post-traumatic stress disorder in Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Alabama. She is also a member of the Hill Family Foundation and supports the Grant Hill Trauma Team through community relations, outreach and a variety of other support. In addition to being a track and field collegiate athlete at Texas A&M, she competed at The University of Alabama in Huntsville in both the hammer and weight throw events. She broke the Gulf South Conference record in the hammer throw by almost 45 feet while attending The University of Alabama in Huntsville. Including medaling in several conference competitions and leading the throws team as a team captain, Ms. Hill was an EE New Balance Nationals National Champion in the hammer throw during high school and placed multiple times as an All-American. She also finished in fourth place at Team USA tryouts.



Bailey Hill

2019 | MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

**2025 (PROJECTED) | DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN GENERAL
PSYCHOLOGY: INDUSTRIAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY**

CAREER HISTORY

In 2018, Bailey Hill supported a government contractor in Huntsville, AL as an intern and completed research. She then obtained a position at Parsons Government Services working with the Missile Defense Agency. She is currently supporting Program Executive Office Aviation, Future Long Range Assault Aircraft Project Office with Brown Technologies, Inc. Ms. Hill has returned to the Missile Defense Agency as of May 2023 with a promotional opportunity as a data manager and analyst II.

IMPACT ON FIELD

Bailey Hill has impacted her professional field by providing exceptional support in the administrative and operations offices with both the Missile Defense Agency and Program Executive Office Aviation. Ms. Hill has supported and provided valuable input to support several missions directly affecting the warfighter. She supported PEO AVN FLRAA, which supports the creation, design and life cycle development of the Blackhawk helicopter's replacement the U.S. Army will use in the future. She was a member of the elite team that supports the U.S. government as contractors to support this mission. Ms. Hill now supports the Missile Defense Agency through ground-based midcourse defense systems.

AWARDS, ACCOLADES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Outstanding Support to the Missile Defense Agency Certificate, 2019; Member of Several Safety, Event, Crisis and Emergency Response Committees, 2019 to Present; Brown Technologies Inc. Team Site Point of Contact on Redstone Arsenal for PEO AVN FLRAA, 2022 to 2023; Development and Production Product Office Manager Coin for providing Elite and Exceptional Support to the FLRAA Product Office, 2022; Division Branch Chief Coin for Providing Elite and Exceptional Support to the FLRAA Project Office, 2023

ORGANIZATIONS

Hill Family Foundation, Kids To Love Through the Mark C. Smith Wellness Center and the Grant Hill Trauma Team, Volunteer Track and Field Coach at The University of Alabama in Huntsville Generosity Foundation, Rocket City Mustang Club

LEADERSHIP STYLE

Bailey Hill is a driving force within her organization as a young leader, taking the lead for taskers, submissions and organizing logistical support to a variety of taskers supporting the Department of Defense. She supported PEO AVN FLRAA as the site point of contact for Brown Technologies, Inc. and dealt with multiple personnel, troubleshooting, onboarding and other matters relating to team support. Ms. Hill supported the development and maintenance of multiple product offices and divisions by providing administrative and operations support to more than 100 individuals. She also is the lead for communications and aids in the development of the Hill Family Foundation through operations and other support. In June 2023, with the Hill Family Foundation and Kids to Love, she raised over \$100,000 in support of the Mark C. Smith Wellness Center. During this event, Ms. Hill led the team for communications, operations, logistical analysis, task completion and action tracking to integrate the team.



Bailey Hill

2019 | MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

**2025 (PROJECTED) | DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN GENERAL
PSYCHOLOGY: INDUSTRIAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY**

ADVICE

Sometimes it takes multiple attempts at new tasks, jobs, hobbies or other interests to find your “niche.” Each person has a God-given talent and gifts. Sometimes, those gifts may be found later in life or they may be obvious to others. Don’t give up hope! My calling from the Lord is to help those who cannot help themselves. So far, this calling is being fulfilled in the most unexpected way. The Lord is able to use our weaknesses and devastation for his glory. We are never too far gone for the Lord to use us. If he can take care of the birds in the air and provide for the fish of the sea, what more can he do for his child?



Steve Hunsaker

**2017 | BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN EXERCISE SCIENCE,
MINOR IN HEALTH EDUCATION**

CURRENT POSITION Owner of Valley Christmas Lights and Slam Dunking Junk AZ

INDUSTRY Entrepreneurship

PROFESSIONAL BIO:

Steve Hunsaker is the owner and operator of two service-based businesses in Phoenix, employing over 40 employees across both companies. He specializes in creating home service-type businesses that leverage technology and systems typically foreign to their respective industries. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Steve worked as a technology sales representative for a Fortune 100 company in the software as a service (SAAS) industry. After the sales team was forced to transition to telesales, Steve left the company and started Valley Christmas Lights. In the first year, the company serviced 52 homes in Scottsdale, Arizona and three commercial properties. Three years later, Valley Christmas Lights services over 15 large commercial properties and over 130 houses each season. The company employs over 15 part-time GCU students. A number of GCU graduates are employed in full-time positions at both Valley Christmas Lights and Slam Dunking Junk AZ.

MOST SIGNIFICANT CAREER MILESTONES

Both of Steve's companies have an average of 4.9-star ratings on Google, putting them in the top 10% of their respective markets. Valley Christmas Lights does design work for Riot Entertainment Group including Whiskey Row Scottsdale, Whiskey Row Gilbert, Maya, District, Riot House, El Hefe, Cake and more. In the valley, they have also been contracted by numerous church and hotel groups and a handful of local celebrities and athletes. Steve consistently hires GCU students for part-time roles that can help them pay their way through school and looks to promote them to full-time positions when they graduate. Steve's portfolio of operations is headed up by Jack Patterson, who graduated in the winter of 2022. Jack was the first employee Steve hired and worked his way up to a director of operations role, where he oversees over 15 direct reports.

CAREER HISTORY

Sales Representative, 2017 to 2018; Regional Sales Manager, 2018 to 2019; SAAS Sales 2019 to 2020; Business Owner, 2020 to Present

IMPACT ON FIELD

I have leveraged technology and systems that are typically foreign to home services companies in this field. I have always felt that home-service businesses are viewed by many people as a commodity where "everyone offers the same thing." The market was ripe for someone to come in and aggressively leverage technology and systems to scale and build a brand. Our reviews are constantly pointing to communication, fair pricing and our top-notch brand standards.



Steve Hunsaker

2017 | BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN EXERCISE SCIENCE,
MINOR IN HEALTH EDUCATION

AWARDS, ACCOLADES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

GCU Outstanding Senior Award Winner; National Sales Representative of the Year, 2018

ORGANIZATIONS

Valley Christmas Lights is a GCU Corporate Sponsor for men's and women's basketball. I am a season ticket holder for GCU men's basketball and a proud Lopes Club member.

LEADERSHIP STYLE

Since I am so new to leadership, I try to fall back on the idea that I create positions that I would want to be in if the roles were reversed. For example, when creating positions for part-time college students, we compensate much higher than minimum wage. I remember when I was in college, that extra cash was huge for my quality of life, and I want my employees to feel valued. The same thought process goes for the leadership roles that are available within the two companies. I tell every GCU student that works for me that if they work for us for over a year, I am happy to share details about the operations and finances of the business. Many of our part-time employees go home after graduation and look to start their own businesses. One of our old employees (another GCU graduate) went home to Nebraska post-graduation and started his own Christmas light and junk removal businesses. That made me particularly happy.

ADVICE

The adjustment from college to the real world is difficult. From a time management perspective, I struggled with the adjustment for a long time. I think it's important to acknowledge that the goal of life is not to chase happiness at all costs. I got a lot of bad advice post-graduation from people saying to "just do what makes you happy." I don't think the goal of life is just to chase happiness/money. In my experience, that resulted in feelings of emptiness and a constant hunger for more, more and more. I'm not fulfilled by the specific act of doing junk removal and hanging Christmas lights. What fulfills me is everything else that comes with owning these companies: setting goals and proving I can accomplish them, building businesses that provide employment to people around me and helping people in my community. Recent graduates need to realize that contrary to what they see online, your field/career choice doesn't always have to be your main passion in life. If they align, that is fantastic, and you are extremely lucky. But there is nothing wrong with doing a great job in a career that stabilizes you financially and pursuing other passions outside of the 9 am to 5 pm. Sometimes a really good career can simply finance your passions outside of work hours!



Anita Jackson

**2021 | MASTER OF SCIENCE IN PSYCHOLOGY WITH AN
EMPHASIS IN INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY**

OTHER DEGREES Bachelor of Science in Public Relations and Communications,
Southern Illinois University, 2018

CURRENT POSITION Human Resources Generalist at Van Marcke Trade Supply

INDUSTRY Human Resources

PROFESSIONAL BIO:

Anita Jackson is an industrial and organizational psychology professional focused on identifying the roots of organizational issues and implementing human-centric solutions. She is passionate about finding ways to streamline routine processes, allowing more time to focus on the human aspect of the recruiting process. After earning her bachelor's degree, Anita completed an internship at the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, working for event planning companies and eventually being hired by Jim McKelvey. After graduating with her master's, Anita worked with digital marketing companies. She now works with a wholesale plumbing supply company. Anita is currently on the National Society for Human Resource Management Board as the marketing, public relations and communications committee chair.

MOST SIGNIFICANT CAREER MILESTONES

My first significant career milestone was having an executive administrator position created for me at Jim McKelvey's (director of Square) company Third Degree Glass Factory. My second significant milestone was becoming an HR administrative professional for a DDD company in Mesa, Arizona. I was then offered an administrative assistant position at my current company. After being in my position for only seven days, I was approached by the HR manager about my interest in becoming the new HR generalist. I transitioned into my new role after my first two weeks at my new company.

CAREER HISTORY

My career started as a front crew member at Culver's, where I trained new employees to work more efficiently and learn new techniques. I then became a social media manager and controlled all aspects of social media platforms, increasing followers by five percent. I left that job to become an event coordinator and volunteer manager. I trained and managed over 40 volunteers while creating training manuals, sponsorship letters and procurement letters. I was chosen as the business and guest service intern at the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, where I planned events and developed a recruiting pipeline for the cash department. As an executive administrator, I handled onboarding employees and payroll. As an administrative coordinator, I helped HR with scheduling interviews and completing the onboarding process for new hires while also managing 35 SEO essential clients. I became a human resources administrative professional where I conducted job analyses, resulting in a search for new employees by crafting job descriptions to solicit applicants with fitting skills, experience and salary expectations. I created and implemented an employee appreciation program to improve recruiting efforts and employee retention. As a human resources generalist, I develop strategies to identify talent, establish and conduct recruitment and create hiring and onboarding processes by collaborating with managers.



Anita Jackson

2021 | MASTER OF SCIENCE IN PSYCHOLOGY WITH AN
EMPHASIS IN INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY

IMPACT ON FIELD

I have a great impact as part of the board of directors for the Phoenix chapter of the National Society for Human Resource Management, the world's largest professional membership organization in human resource management. I am also the chapter's marketing, PR and communications committee chair. I currently help the board implement events and create social media content with relevant information for HR professionals.

AWARDS, ACCOLADES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Outstanding Senior Assignment Award, 2018; Award of Excellence for BIE Week Presentation at the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

ORGANIZATIONS

National Society for Human Resource Management Chapter of Greater Phoenix (SHRMGP)

LEADERSHIP STYLE

A good leader can make decisions while taking others' opinions and feelings into account. This includes being willing to admit when you're wrong and working to correct issues. I demonstrate leadership in my role as an HR generalist. I do my best to be a role model for my current company's policies and procedures. I guide employee relations by researching, developing, writing and updating policies, procedures, methods and guidelines. I am there to listen to our employees and ensure they are heard. In my current role on the SHRMGP Board of Directors, I assign tasks to committee members, lead monthly meetings and collaborate on new ideas. I also listen to members' concerns and bring them to the attention of the board.

ADVICE

Get to know a wide range of people. Current students, get to know your faculty and other students by joining clubs and attending events. Meeting other students can help you form study groups and create long-lasting memories with new friends. Networking with faculty can help you find internships, jobs or letters of recommendation. Recent graduates: Join a professional group, join a local board or volunteer. A bigger network can open doors to job recommendations, knowledge and new relationships with professional colleagues. Don't ignore your academic or professional problems. Speak to your instructors, advisor, other students or your family. In your job, ask for help from your manager, coworkers and professional colleagues. All that really matters is that you continuously work towards living, learning and growing in the way that is best for you.

FURTHER COMMENTS

After becoming a college graduate, I realized I made the right choice in my program at GCU, because I am now able to live my career goals and dreams.



Matt Jackson

2017 | BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

2019 | MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

CURRENT POSITION Financial Advisor at RBC Wealth Management

INDUSTRY Finance

PROFESSIONAL BIO:

Matt Jackson is a financial advisor at RBC Wealth Management and began his career in 2019. He became registered after completing his Series 7, 66 and his health and life insurance licenses. Matt furthered his education and became a certified financial planner in 2021. The CFP® mark is the most recognized designation in the industry. This designation gives him a solid background in a wide range of financial areas including investment planning, retirement planning, insurance planning, estate planning and tax planning. Matt works out of the Scottsdale, Arizona area and serves a wide range of clients from pre-retirees to retirees, but mainly focuses on millennials. Matt helps his clients create a plan of attack to achieve financial stability, keep them on pace for retirement and create financial peace of mind. He and his team specialize in managing investment assets for their clients and providing them with sound advice at every stage of the financial journey.

MOST SIGNIFICANT CAREER MILESTONES

My biggest career milestone was attaining my CFP® designation at 26. It is one of the most recognized titles to achieve in the wealth management industry. I joined a list of only approximately 5,000 advisors across the country who have attained the designation before the age of 30. I was able to complete my coursework, capstone project and pass the exam all in the same year.

CAREER HISTORY

I graduated from my master's program in 2019. At GCU, I played on the men's basketball team and enjoyed working at Grand Canyon Beverage Company (GCBC) during my junior year. I joined RBC Wealth Management in 2019 and have worked as a financial advisor ever since.

IMPACT ON FIELD

I came into this field wanting to work with younger professionals. I realized it's better to get people on the right track early in their lives, rather than waiting until they're unable to retire because they didn't have the right habits. I market mainly towards millennials with the goal of getting them on the right track early, so they can retire with complete confidence.

AWARDS, ACCOLADES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Received Certified Financial Planner Designation, 2021



Matt Jackson

2017 | BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

2019 | MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

ORGANIZATIONS

Scottsdale Rising Young Professionals, Toastmasters International and the Australians in Arizona Community

LEADERSHIP STYLE

I've always been a leader by example. I struggle to tell people what to do if I am not following my own advice. My clients rely on me for sound financial advice, and I make sure I'm well-versed in a wide range of financial topics and have the guidance of RBC and my partner. I hold people accountable to what they say they want to achieve. I tell my clients I can't care more about their finances than they do, but I will match that energy and hold them accountable if they can handle it.

ADVICE

Don't put too much pressure on figuring out what you want to do. Life changes all the time and you're not expected to know what career path you will take. I had no idea what career path I wanted to pursue until my last year of school and the opportunity arose. Take and create opportunities for yourself. Make sure you're constantly learning in whatever jobs and opportunities you do take. Network, go meet people, treat them well and keep in touch. You never know when that person could help you or vice versa. This also creates opportunities down the road.

FURTHER COMMENTS

I'm Australian and have lived in Arizona for nine years. I moved away from home and family. I took a chance and it's worked out so far!



Adam Johnson

2016 | BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN SPORTS MANAGEMENT

CURRENT POSITION Marketing Manager at Coolray Heating & Cooling

INDUSTRY Marketing

PROFESSIONAL BIO:

Adam Johnson began his career in sports and marketing with Phoenix International Raceway and NASCAR in 2016, after several years of volunteering at the track with the GCU Sports Business Club. After helping tell the story of the raceway's \$178 million renovation in 2018, Adam worked to help the track host their first NASCAR Championship in 2020 before moving to Georgia to handle the sports partnerships at Coolray Heating & Cooling in the metro Atlanta area. Since working for Coolray and growing their relationships with the Atlanta Braves and Atlanta Motor Speedway, Adam has worked to open new locations across state lines in Alabama and Tennessee. At these new locations, Adam has helped facilitate new local sponsorships with the likes of the Birmingham Barons, Talladega Superspeedway and more.

MOST SIGNIFICANT CAREER MILESTONES

NASCAR Marketing Team of the Year, 2018; Completing a \$178 Million Phoenix International Raceway Track Renovation; Front Office Sports Rising 25 Award Winner, 2019; Helped Facilitate the 2020 NASCAR Championship in Avondale, Arizona

CAREER HISTORY

Adam's career history was built brick-by-brick through networking and relationships. Adam met his future boss at Phoenix International Raceway through opportunities in the GCU Sports Business Club. After working with one of his marketing peers for four years at the track, Adam had the chance to follow his peer to Georgia to take over marketing operations at Coolray. While doing these jobs, Adam has also pursued other career opportunities in his free time such as race broadcasting, social media management for athletes and more.

IMPACT ON FIELD

I make a concerted effort to show the next generation of sports management students that you can break into the industry without working for just one of the four major sports. NASCAR is a niche sport in itself, and I've parlayed that niche mindset into working with professional baseball, racing and more on the brand side. I take pride in helping people understand that there is more than one way to break into and crush it in the sports industry.

ORGANIZATIONS

North Metro Church, CBS46 Surprise Squad, Second Helpings Atlanta, Coolray Cares



Adam Johnson

2016 | BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN SPORTS MANAGEMENT

LEADERSHIP STYLE

I do my best to lead by my actionable example more than by words. My leadership and insight in NASCAR helped grow their social platforms to never-before-seen levels, and I was fortunate enough to pass the baton onto the next person and grow my managerial style of leadership even more at Coolray. Since being at Coolray, I have helped several of the dozens of sister companies I work with onboard new email marketing and web design strategies. When I learn new things, I feel it is only right to pass the knowledge on and not keep it to myself. Leaders share their wisdom like Christ. Jesus was always teaching, and I would love to be just point one percent of the teacher he was. I try my best to continue learning more from leaders to whom I look up. It's a constant cycle of growth and learning on both sides.

ADVICE

Whether you know the exact job you want or not, don't think there's only one way to get into that role. This is especially true for sports management and marketing majors. My time at GCU was most rewarding because of the people I met. What was the best part? Some of the most helpful people I met in my career were during volunteer activities. The activity may not literally pay, but the connection and relationship may pay off for years to come. Just show up and be available. You don't need to be the smartest person in the room. I certainly am not, but I show up.



Dion Jones

2020 | MASTER OF ARTS IN CURRICULUM INSTRUCTION

OTHER DEGREES Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education, Coppin State University

CURRENT POSITION Classroom Teacher for Montgomery County Public Schools

INDUSTRY Education

PROFESSIONAL BIO:

In Dion T. Jones' classroom, students are "scholars," a moniker they live up to every day. A third-grade teacher at Fairland Elementary in Silver Spring, Maryland, Jones keeps students engaged by tailoring lessons, tasks and activities to their personal interests. Thanks to Jones' focus on academics and social-emotional learning, his students' performance shines. In 2021-22, they delivered 79.7% of the district's projected growth in reading and 84.4% in math. Jones is a leader at Fairland and sits on the instructional leadership and school improvement plan teams. He trains and supports student teachers and educators new to the school and district, and he welcomes peer observers into his classroom. Jones has presented to Fairland staff and helped lead the school's efforts around equitable practices in teaching. Jones' students know they are loved. They have what they need to succeed at the highest levels and are learning skills that will help them in the classroom and beyond. Their teacher will never give up on them! Jones earned a bachelor's in elementary education in 2016 from Coppin State University and a master's in curriculum and instruction in 2020 from GCU.

MOST SIGNIFICANT CAREER MILESTONES

Serving as a Team Leader and a Mentor Teacher to Teacher Candidates; Training and Mentoring New Teachers; Staff Presentation of Virtual Teaching Platforms

CAREER HISTORY

I began my career in 2017 and have served as a third- and fourth-grade teacher, a member of the instructional leadership team and as a mentor teacher.

IMPACT ON FIELD

I emphasize the instructional relevancy of grade-level content to real-world application, creating engaging hands-on lessons and personalizing instruction to student needs.

AWARDS, ACCOLADES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

2022 Milken Educator Recipient



Dion Jones

2020 | MASTER OF ARTS IN CURRICULUM INSTRUCTION

ORGANIZATIONS

Milken Educator, Maryland State Education Association

LEADERSHIP STYLE

I demonstrate leadership by managing and facilitating team activities, leading curriculum study meetings, serving as a liaison to other teams and service providers and working collaboratively with local school administrators to ensure student success.

ADVICE

Stay committed to your academic journey to finish strong. Whatever you desire in life requires hard work and dedication. Rely on your passion to help you through your obstacles.



Brandon Kaiser

2016 | BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN EXERCISE SCIENCE

CURRENT POSITION Founder and CEO of Biggest Fan

INDUSTRY Entrepreneurship

PROFESSIONAL BIO:

Brandon is a seasoned entrepreneur and the leading student section expert. As a student at GCU, Brandon built the GCU Havocs into “The Biggest Party in College Basketball” and later served as president of the National Collegiate Student Section Association. Brandon is obsessed with student sections and believes every student has the desire to be hyped. Brandon founded Biggest Fan with the goal of helping other schools achieve the same level of success he had in building the Havocs. He believes that with the right guidance and support, any student can make a positive impact on their student section culture and create unforgettable experiences for their fellow fans.

MOST SIGNIFICANT CAREER MILESTONES

I have achieved several milestones in my career. I helped build the Havocs student section from scratch, which earned recognition as the biggest party in college basketball. After graduation, I created my own job at GCU as a Havocs coordinator, which allowed me to develop my leadership, communication and organizational skills while pursuing my passion for GCU and student sections. I started a successful sales career with ADP, a Fortune 250 company, after moving to San Diego, California. Although I exceeded my sales goals and was highly sought-after by the management team, I left to pursue my passion after being unfilled by corporate sales. I gained experience in building a small business by working as a youth pastor, gym coach and sales representative at a marketing agency. This experience was invaluable in helping me establish my own business, Biggest Fan, in 2018. Since then, I have led my company to significant growth and success, securing private equity backing in 2021 and disrupting the athletics marketing industry. As a result, I have hired two GCU alumni and am passionate about giving back to my community and alma mater. These milestones have equipped me to become a successful entrepreneur and leader. I am proud of my achievements and remain committed to continued growth and learning as I lead my company into the future.

CAREER HISTORY

Original GCU Havocs Leader, 2013 to 2016; Havocs Coordinator, 2016; Sales Rep at ADP, 2017 to 2018; Youth Pastor, Gym Coach and Marketing Agency Sales, 2018; Founded Biggest Fan, 2018



Brandon Kaiser

2016 | BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN EXERCISE SCIENCE

IMPACT ON FIELD

As a trailblazer in my field, I have created an entirely new market with my company, Biggest Fan, which focuses specifically on student sections. Prior to its genesis, no other company specifically focused on this initiative or had the expertise to build, grow and scale student sections. With my firsthand experience as a former Havocs leader and president of the National Collegiate Student Section Association, I have become the leading authority on student sections at the collegiate and high school levels. Our innovative approach is disrupting an industry that has relied on outdated practices, where administrators simply copy and paste strategies from other schools. By championing creativity and uniqueness, we are empowering students to create memorable experiences.

AWARDS, ACCOLADES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Regional MVP of the Month with 225% of Quota, January 2018; Regional Top ADM with 297.6% of Quota, November 2017; Regional Top ADM with 286.5% of Quota, July 2017; Regional MVP of the Month with 398.3% of Quota, May 2017; Regional Rookie of the Month, April 2017; National Collegiate Student Section Association President, 2016; Student Section Recognized by SBNation, 2016

LEADERSHIP STYLE

As a leader, I prioritize leading by example and embodying my core principles. During my time at ADP, I developed the acronym "HWITR" standing for "Hardest Worker In The Room" with "WIT" in the middle, meaning "Whatever It Takes." I still abide by these principles to this day. My leadership style is rooted in my core principles, including having a growth mindset. That principle guides my life and I incorporate it into my leadership approach at Biggest Fan. By implementing these principles into our client interactions, we can deliver the best results possible. I believe a strong vision, mission and guiding principles attract the right talent, making leading easy. By ensuring we have the right people on board, we can work toward delivering success.

ADVICE

Don't live out of fear. Live out of calling. Identify your blind spots and personal struggles, and deal with them as quickly as possible. Go to counseling. Take personality tests. Find people who are where you want to be 10, 20 and 30 years ahead of you and take them to coffee. Don't spend more than your means. Your major does not define you. Set clear goals. Don't care what others think or say about you. Love others. Limit your negative inputs. Remove negative people. Read books. For those interested in pursuing entrepreneurship, I'll share with you the advice my aunt gave me after leaving GCU: go to a city you want to live in. Find a sales job. Save six to 12 months of living expenses. Build your network. These steps served me well.

FURTHER COMMENTS

Go Lopes!



Karin Leimbach

2018 | MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH

OTHER DEGREES Bachelor of Science in Human Development and Family Sciences, Oklahoma State University

CURRENT POSITION Certified Healthy Consultant at the Oklahoma State Department of Health

INDUSTRY Public Service

PROFESSIONAL BIO:

Karin Leimbach has been working in the public health field for over six years. Karin earned her Master's in Public Health from GCU and her bachelor's in human development and family science from Oklahoma State University. Karin currently serves as the Certified Healthy program consultant at the Oklahoma State Department of Health and is a certified master trainer of the CDC Work@Health program. Karin primarily works with communities and businesses to increase the health of their environments which in turn increases opportunities for residents and employees to make healthy decisions. Karin assists with the implementation, technical assistance and evaluation of the Certified Healthy Oklahoma program. Karin specifically provides technical assistance to businesses and communities to implement evidence-based strategies to create healthier environments. Karin also leads the LiveWell Committee which implements employee wellness programming for all Oklahoma State Department of Health employees, including employees at 68 county health departments. Karin enjoys health promotion and working with partners to achieve their wellness goals. Karin has experience in public speaking, training, planning community events, providing technical assistance in policy development and gathering and interpreting data. Karin enjoys getting to know each partner she works with to ensure she meets their needs.

MOST SIGNIFICANT CAREER MILESTONES

Karin's most significant career milestones include her work with Certified Healthy Oklahoma, Work@Health, Employee Wellness and grant writing. Karin provides technical assistance to businesses and communities that apply for certification through Certified Healthy Oklahoma. Applicants are awarded basic, merit or excellent depending on the number of evidence-based strategies being implemented. Three years ago, she worked with a rural community that wasn't certified by assisting the community in developing their first tobacco-free ordinance. That community was awarded basic certification the following year. The next year, Karin connected them to free community resources that increased their status to merit. This past year Karin completed a Walkability assessment with the community, and they have been certified as excellent. Many towns Karin assists are able to increase their certification. Karin became a certified Work@Health Master trainer in 2021 and now has the opportunity to train employers in the CDC program and prepare more trainers. Karin has been working to increase the capacity of Work@Health trainings across Oklahoma. Karin became the lead for the Oklahoma State Department of Health's employee wellness program, LiveWell, during the COVID-19 pandemic. Since then, Karin has created a thriving employee wellness program with challenges, education and resources for employees. Karin has written and been awarded several state grants that allow public health programs to expand across Oklahoma. Karin just submitted her first CDC grant and is eagerly waiting to hear back.



Karin Leimbach

2018 | MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH

CAREER HISTORY

Karin's first job out of undergrad was as an Oklahoma State extension agent. She loved many aspects of the job, especially the projects focused on health promotion. Karin moved to a position with a nonprofit working to prevent opioid overdoses. This opened Karin's eyes to public health and led her to pursue a master's in public health. From there, she took a position at the Oklahoma State Department of Health as a wellness coordinator stationed at Canadian County Health Department. This position focused on the promotion of tobacco prevention, nutrition and physical activity. Karin has been in her current position as a certified healthy consultant for three years. This position allows her to focus on statewide initiatives focused on comprehensive health including tobacco prevention, nutrition, physical activity, mental health, stress management and chronic disease prevention.

IMPACT ON FIELD

I have seen an increase in conversations about walkability since bringing in a content expert to speak at a statewide webinar series. More rural communities now believe they can implement active transportation and complete walkability assessments. There have been more walkability summits across the state, and I have been asked to present at several on how active transportation and public health intersect. I have been implementing employee wellness without a budget and in a hybrid environment. I have been able to share my experiences and the lessons I have learned with other employers across the state. I have had the opportunity to support and assist more employers in starting or expanding their employee wellness efforts.

AWARDS, ACCOLADES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Friends of Guidance Award from Oklahoma Career Tech; Oklahoma Pharmacists Association Spirit Award; Multiple Nominations for Oklahoma State Department of Health Cheers from Peers Program

ORGANIZATIONS

With this position, I have the opportunity to work with many state, internal and community partners. The Certified Healthy Oklahoma applications require coordination with partners to ensure success. This includes the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health Services and Substance Abuse Services, Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust and Thrive. Internal partners include the Department of Chronic Disease Prevention, Injury Prevention Service, Maternal and Child Health, all 68 county health departments and other departments that serve on the wellness committee. I also partner with numerous community organizations including The Southwestern Oklahoma Development Authority, YMCA and numerous businesses and communities.



Karin Leimbach

2018 | MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH

LEADERSHIP STYLE

As the leader of the employee wellness committee, Karin creates the agenda and coordinates the implementation of ideas. Karin works to create a cohesive and fun committee by always having icebreakers to get employees to know each other better. Karin sets the agenda but lets the members fill in the “what” and “how.” This ensures that employee wellness programs represent all employees. After the COVID pandemic, Karin has implemented fun employee wellness activities such as an employee walk led by the commissioner and deputy commissioners. The walk was so well attended that it is now being scheduled for both the spring and the fall. Karin demonstrates leadership by stepping up to fill gaps. She actively requested to take on more responsibilities with the communication and marketing of Certified Healthy Oklahoma. By identifying gaps and filling them, Karin has become recognized as a leader in her department. She is approached for other projects such as leading subcommittees on state obesity prevention calls, writing grants and other opportunities.

ADVICE

Public health has many opportunities! I would learn about all the public health opportunities you can pursue while in school. Once you graduate and land that first job, continue finding ways to grow. I see myself as a constant learner, and it has helped me increase my content expertise and partnerships. Jobs will provide some ways to continue to learn, but often you have to be willing to find learning opportunities. Passion and initiative can take you far in public health. I also suggest finding someone whom you admire in public health. Don't be afraid to ask them for advice and assistance with creating your professional goals.

FURTHER COMMENTS

My time at GCU shaped the way I approach each day at work. I want to serve others and help them be healthier. I achieve this by working to increase availability and access to public health resources for Oklahomans. Upon reflection, I am proud of the growth I've had in my public health career in the last several years and I'm excited for the trajectory I have set. I see more opportunities to grow and increase my impact on public health in the years to come.



Victoria Leonard

2018 | BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN SOCIOLOGY

**2023 | MASTER OF SCIENCE IN CLINICAL MENTAL
HEALTH COUNSELING**

CURRENT POSITION Direct Care Provider and Counseling Intern at Southwest Behavioral and Health Services

INDUSTRY Public Service

PROFESSIONAL BIO:

Victoria Leonard is a direct care provider and counseling intern working in the behavioral health field, helping individuals identify and exceed their goals. She specializes in adults with serious mental illnesses and those experiencing psychiatric crises. Victoria uses her education and skills to foster an environment of warmth, belonging and growth so that all those in her care feel confident to take control of their lives and make decisions that will lead them to their desired outcome.

MOST SIGNIFICANT CAREER MILESTONES

My most significant career milestones include receiving employer recognition for the quality of care I provide, as well as being offered several counseling positions within my agency upon licensure.

CAREER HISTORY

I spent six years in food service, including management roles, before switching to the behavioral health field. In this field, I have worked extensively with adults with serious mental illness (SMI) in residential and psychiatric crisis settings. I provide individual and group counseling services, as well as engage in treatment planning and case management.

IMPACT ON FIELD

I have impacted this field by continuing to practice and push for person-centered care and advocate for harm reduction. The unique needs of the individuals in front of me are always the top priority in my practice.

AWARDS, ACCOLADES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Summa Cum Laude at GCU; Living Our Values Recognition from Southwest Behavioral and Health Services

ORGANIZATIONS

American Counseling Association



Victoria Leonard

2018 | BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN SOCIOLOGY

2023 | MASTER OF SCIENCE IN CLINICAL MENTAL
HEALTH COUNSELING

LEADERSHIP STYLE

I demonstrate leadership by utilizing a collaborative approach. I do not make decisions alone and always include my team.

ADVICE

You are capable of so much more than you know. Practice self-awareness, learn your limits and honor them but never stop moving forward!



Taylor Magnuson

2016 | BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN MARKETING

**2017 | MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION WITH AN
EMPHASIS IN PROJECT MANAGEMENT**

CURRENT POSITION Realtor at eXp Realty; Team Lead and Owner of MagnusonSold.com

INDUSTRY Entrepreneurship

PROFESSIONAL BIO:

Taylor Magnuson is a second-generation real estate agent who grew up in the business alongside his dad and brother. Since 2020, Taylor has helped over 200 families buy, sell or invest in a home. Taylor excels in marketing, negotiations and delivering exceptional service in every aspect of a real estate transaction. His passion for helping others has helped Taylor build a reputation as a trusted advisor in the Arizona real estate market. Taylor doesn't just help others buy or sell, he invests and owns both long and short-term investment properties. He attended college and played baseball at GCU, where he earned his undergraduate degree in marketing and his MBA in project management. After college, Taylor was a financial advisor for Edward Jones in Scottsdale, Arizona, a job that led him to real estate.

MOST SIGNIFICANT CAREER MILESTONES

Accolades are great, but my most significant career milestone has been starting my own real estate team. In my relatively short career, I have gone from being green in the industry to serving hundreds of clients and being nominated for some of the industry's most sought-after awards. Mentoring real estate agents and playing a key role in the development of Phoenix's fastest-growing real estate company prepared me to bet on myself and create a small team of individuals dedicated to serving our clients and making an impact on the industry. Although I am in the beginning phases of this transition, I could not be more excited for what is to come!

CAREER HISTORY

In 2020, I passed my real estate licensing exam and decided to join Hague Partners and 72Sold as my first brokerage. It took me a few months to really gain traction in the industry. Under the mentorship of some of the valley's most accomplished real estate agents, I quickly caught stride and wound up being recognized as a top one percent realtor in the valley in 2021, and a top point one percent realtor in 2022. During that time, I took on mentorship opportunities, led agent trainings and was invited to speaking engagements to touch on attaining high levels of success. In 2023, it is my goal to build a reputable brand and team of individuals that can serve the real estate industry and our community.



Taylor Magnuson

2016 | BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN MARKETING

2017 | MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION WITH AN
EMPHASIS IN PROJECT MANAGEMENT

IMPACT ON FIELD

The largest area of impact I have had is in the mentorship opportunities I have accepted. With over 60,000 active licensees in the state of Arizona, it would be fair to say that not all real estate professionals are created equal. Educating and mentoring agents has not only helped me be the best version of myself for my clients, but it has also given me the ability to develop the skills of several agents operating in the industry. It is my hope that everyone associated with my services, and the services of agents I have worked with, is given the highest level of representation during one of the largest financial decisions of their life.

AWARDS, ACCOLADES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Scottsdale Area Association of Realtors' 40 Under 40 Award Nominee, 2021 and 2022; Named Phoenix Business Journals #70 Most Productive Phoenix Area Residential Real Estate Agent, 2022; East Valley Home Owner's 40 Under 40 Award Nominee, 2021

ORGANIZATIONS

National Association of Realtors, Scottsdale Area Association of Realtors, Impact Church, Paradise Valley School District, Agent Xcel, Derrick Brehm Foundation

LEADERSHIP STYLE

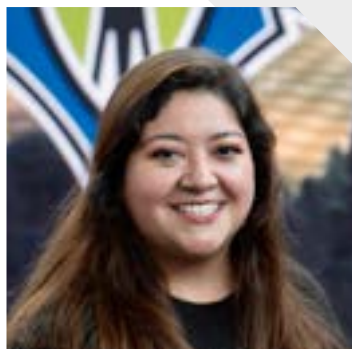
I demonstrate leadership in various areas of my life, most notably as a mentor to real estate agents in our community. As a leader, it falls on me to demonstrate a high level of service. Not only with results but also with how those results are achieved. I approach leadership opportunities with a focus on setting an example, sharing information and continuously innovating. Outside of real estate, I volunteer my time at various organizations throughout the city, seeking ways to be involved and make a greater impact on our community. We are called to be our best selves to serve the world around us.

ADVICE

Be open to opportunities. You never know where they may lead.

FURTHER COMMENTS

It is an honor to be included in GCU's 30 Under 30. My time at GCU includes academics, athletics and employment. From a former student-athlete and student worker to a full-time employee, I have so much in my life I can attest to my time at Grand Canyon University.



Nathalie Ojeda

2017 | BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN SPORTS MANAGEMENT

OTHER DEGREES Master of Science in Organizational Leadership,
Southern New Hampshire University, 2021

CURRENT POSITION Programs Manager at Seattle Sounders FC, RAVE Foundation

INDUSTRY Public Service

PROFESSIONAL BIO:

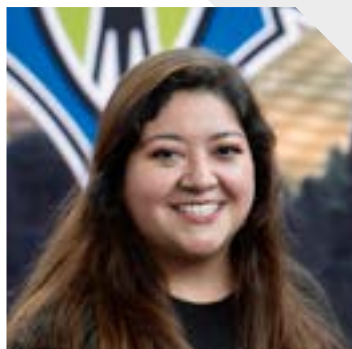
Entering her seventh season in the sports industry, Nathalie has the privilege of being the programs manager for RAVE Foundation, the charitable partner of Seattle Sounders FC. I oversee all aspects of RAVE's mission-aligned programs: soccer camps and clinics, Sports Media Institute, First Kicks Early Learning, Goals for Art and One Ball program. To support the next generation of leaders, Nathalie helped launch job shadow programs and career events to inspire youth to pursue a career within the sports industry.

MOST SIGNIFICANT CAREER MILESTONES

Through opportunities with Jerry Colangelo and NBA Basketball Hall of Fame events, Waste Management Open, Phoenix International Raceway, a World Series of Fighting internship, a College Football Playoffs internship and a position with the GCU softball team, I was able to accept a season-long internship with the Arizona Diamondbacks that would ultimately launch my career. My full-time career with Sounders FC allowed me to host 400 military youth and their families to attend their first Major League Soccer match. In 2019, Sounders FC became MLS Champions and was able to help lead the efforts for a sell-out of 69,274 fans at Lumen Field. With this win, we qualified and won the CONCACAF Champions League tournament in 2022. This showed the soccer world that we could be a potential host city for the FIFA World Cup in 2026. RAVE Foundation's newest initiative is to build 26 mini-fields by 2026. With 13 current fields and an expected seven more in 2023, we are well on our way to our goal. These fields help provide a safe space for youth and communities to play and grow.

CAREER HISTORY

With the GCU Sports, Entertainment and Business Club, I volunteered for anything related to my future career. These experiences led to a full-season internship with the Arizona Diamondbacks within their group sales, business development, premium, ticket sales and service team in 2016. I loved creating memorable experiences for fans, which led to my second opportunity with the Arizona Cardinals. Upon graduating, I relocated back home to Seattle and joined Seattle Sounders FC in the inside sales program. I was promoted to membership engagement executive in 2018, where I served over 800 season members for the next five years. In 2021, I was able to join the RAVE Foundation, where I have grown their programs and coaching curriculum to provide a no-cost environment for youth to play soccer.



Nathalie Ojeda

2017 | BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN SPORTS MANAGEMENT

IMPACT ON FIELD

In my third year with the RAVE Foundation, we have successfully grown our fundraising goals. Without generous donors and fundraising, we would not be able to provide every youth with a free soccer ball and programs year-round. On match days, I led the charge for the Sounders FC 50/50 raffle, where half of the jackpot goes to one lucky fan and the other supports the RAVE Foundation. In 2021, I was able to lead professional Seattle teams to create a weeklong sampling camp. This created a rare opportunity for students to get professional training in baseball, basketball, soccer, hockey and rugby, as well as introductions to tennis, golf and ultimate frisbee. By the end of the week, they can't stop smiling about making new friends and learning a new sport! We don't just teach soccer skills. We empower our local youth to regain their social-emotional skills and we support learning, wellness and joy by using soccer as a vehicle. By the end of our programs, youth feel seen and empowered to learn more about themselves on and off the field.

AWARDS, ACCOLADES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

McKinsey Academy: Hispanic and Latino Leadership Academy, 2022

ORGANIZATIONS

Sounders FC: Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Equity Committee, Bellarmine Preparatory, Alumni Committee of Seattle Pacific University, Mentor for Women in Sports and Events, NC, Member of King County Play Equity Coalition

LEADERSHIP STYLE

I am a humble leader who enjoys helping others craft their own leadership skills. I make sure everyone knows my door is always open. My peers have shared that I am always willing to jump in to help, regardless of the task. I am a problem solver and, rather than taking credit for an accomplishment, I share it with others who helped me. Ultimately, I aspire to be the leader my younger self would have wanted. The circle of women in sports is often small, and you must be able to work with anyone, no matter their working style. I always look for ways to support my colleagues across departments and help them feel valued. I want to bring people with me up the mountain, not leave them behind.

ADVICE

College is about experiencing opportunities that rarely become available. I put my part-time job aside to focus on my purpose: working in sports. My advice is to join clubs, network and go to panels. Anything you find interesting, attend with an open mind. Find something that will make you feel empowered to wake up and work. Don't lose motivation if a door doesn't open; keep trying again and again. If you want to join the sports industry, know that it is very small. It's a beautiful opportunity not given to many. Once you get there, continue to share with others. Bring others with you on your journey and find mentors that empower you to be better.

FURTHER COMMENTS

I truly wouldn't be in my current position without the dedicated support from academic advisors (Miguel, Karla, Janessa) and professors who believed in me.



Megan Oliver

2018 | BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

2022 | MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING EDUCATION

CURRENT POSITIONS ICU Nurse at MultiCare Deaconess Hospital; Critical Care Nurse at Global Medical Response

INDUSTRY Medical Care

PROFESSIONAL BIO:

Megan Oliver graduated from GCU with her BSN in 2018, graduating again in 2022 with her MSN. Since then, Megan has worked in orthopedics, trauma, plastics and critical care. She currently works in the intensive care unit for MultiCare Health Services Deaconess in Spokane, Washington. Megan also works as an event nurse at Global Medical Response for concerts and festivals. In the ICU, she runs continuous renal replacement therapy, takes open-heart patients and precepts learning nurses. Megan also coaches a youth soccer club for the Spokane Sounders and periodically fills in as medical staff for local youth sporting events.

MOST SIGNIFICANT CAREER MILESTONES

In my time as a nurse, my significant milestones include being trained to take care of some of the most critical patients, including those that need continual renal replacement therapy and post open-heart surgery patients. I thoroughly enjoy the opportunity to be able to serve all patient populations, inside and outside of the hospital by working as an event nurse at some of the largest festivals and concerts in the U.S. Before transitioning to the intensive care unit, I was trained as a charge nurse of the 72-bed orthopedic/trauma unit at Providence Sacred Heart. My most significant and rewarding career milestone has to be working overtime at the height of the COVID pandemic.

CAREER HISTORY

As an undergraduate student at GCU, I worked for GCU's technical support team for two years. My first nursing job was in the orthopedics, trauma, plastics unit at Sacred Heart Medical Center. I currently work at MultiCare Deaconess and have been there for the last year and a half. In addition, I work with my fiancé in real estate flipping houses.

IMPACT ON FIELD

By working hard and continuing my education, I am able to take care of the most critical patients in need of life-saving care. While training new and student nurses, I have the opportunity to share knowledge and help new graduates and students create safe and healthy habits and ensure they learn how to passionately care for complex patient populations.

AWARDS, ACCOLADES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Cum Laude at GCU for Undergraduate and Graduate Degrees; Daisy Award Winner, Nominated by a Patient



Megan Oliver

2018 | BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

2022 | MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING EDUCATION

ORGANIZATIONS

Spokane Sounders Soccer Club, Global Medical Response

LEADERSHIP STYLE

I attempt to lead by example, always volunteering to assist others, offering advice when applicable and jumping at the opportunity to learn something new. This includes being a helpful coworker with a positive attitude and challenging my team to be the best nurses we can be. Outside of nursing, I am always setting an example for the young girls I coach. Although I am coaching a sport, I spend most of my time teaching them the meaning of hard work, dedication and being respectful, kind, smart and fun young ladies. I emphasize that we're only human, no one is perfect and we all make mistakes. Being able to lead and teach not only my patients but the girls I coach is one of the most rewarding feelings.

ADVICE

Enjoy the moment! Don't be so rushed and stressed to finish. When you finally get into your dream career or field, it will be worth all the stress and endless nights of studying. Doing what you love and helping others while you do it is beyond rewarding. Until then, slow down and enjoy the moment of being with friends and family and being in school. College is a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Join all the clubs, do all the activities and make all the friends you can! Make the best of it and enjoy every second while you can.

FURTHER COMMENTS

Lopes Up!



Tristen Pfeifer

2018 | BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN FINANCE AND ECONOMICS

OTHER DEGREES Master of Science in Finance, Arizona State University

CURRENT POSITION Managing Director of Investments at Fundamental Income

INDUSTRY Finance

PROFESSIONAL BIO:

Tristen Pfeifer is a managing director of investments at Fundamental Income. In this capacity, Tristen is responsible for sourcing, reviewing and executing single-tenant acquisition and investment opportunities across North America. Fundamental Income is a private real estate investment platform backed by Brookfield Asset Management that focuses on sale-leasebacks with middle market businesses. Since its inception in the middle of 2020, Fundamental has invested approximately \$1.2 billion. Before joining Fundamental Income, Tristen served as the managing director and head of net lease investments at Keyway, a venture capital-backed prop-tech start-up. He was responsible for leading the net lease team's acquisition process including sourcing, underwriting, closing and managing portfolios of net lease assets. Prior to Keyway, he worked at STORE Capital in the underwriting and acquisitions departments. As a senior underwriter, he evaluated and presented over \$500 million worth of net lease transactions. After being promoted to managing director of acquisitions, Tristen jointly sourced, priced and closed over \$750 million worth of transactions. Tristen earned his master's in finance from ASU's W.P. Carey School of Business after completing his undergraduate studies in finance and economics at GCU. Tristen is also a CFA® Charterholder.

MOST SIGNIFICANT CAREER MILESTONES

Completed Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA®) Designation in 18 Months; Graduated Summa Cum Laude from ASU; Promoted to Managing Director of STORE Capital, a Publicly-Traded REIT; Presented To Potential Equity Investors, Detailing Store's Underwriting Criteria Resulting in a \$200 Million Equity Investment; Part of the Acquisitions Team at STORE Capital That Completed \$750 Million of Single-Tenant Sale-Leaseback Transactions in Two Years; Built Out the Acquisitions and Underwriting Net Lease Department at Keyway; Successfully Invested Roughly \$75 Million Into Net Lease Healthcare Real Estate in First Year; Hired as Managing Director of Investments at a Brookfield Asset Management Platform



Tristen Pfeifer

2018 | BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN FINANCE AND ECONOMICS

CAREER HISTORY

After pursuing a master's in finance and completing my CFA®, I wanted to start a career within the alternative investments side of finance. After a cold email and a few interviews, I was hired as an analyst at STORE Capital. My role focused on putting together in-depth investment memorandums detailing capital structures, cash flow, financial metrics and more for sale-leaseback transactions across the middle market. After six months in that role, I was asked to join the acquisition team as a managing director. I spent two years with the mandate of finding, pricing, negotiating and closing sale-leaseback transactions. While working at STORE Capital, I was contacted by a recruiter looking to find an individual to run the acquisitions team for a technology-based start-up. This company aimed to disrupt the real estate industry using machine learning and AI. I joined the New York-based start-up and spent a year building out the acquisitions and underwriting team. While there, I assisted in a Series A funding round as well as managing the equity partners on the real estate investment side. Most recently, I joined Fundamental Income, a Phoenix-based, Brookfield Asset Management-backed net lease platform. They focus on helping middle market businesses and private equity groups through sale-leaseback financing. In my role, I am tasked with sourcing, pricing, negotiating and closing sale-leaseback transactions.

IMPACT ON FIELD

First, by using the vehicle of real estate to provide capital to middle market businesses, I have helped dozens of companies hire new employees, grow their businesses and better their local communities. During the unprecedented macroeconomy caused by COVID, I assisted the team at STORE Capital by working with middle market companies to conserve cash, restructure financing obligations, apply for PPP and retain employees. Lastly, my daily goal is to bring positive energy and better those around me.

AWARDS, ACCOLADES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Summa Cum Laude at GCU; Summa Cum Laude at ASU; Passed All Three Levels of the CFA® Program in 18 Months; Won Silvertips Community Relations Award (2016), Silvertips Scholastic Player of the Year Award (2015 and 2016) and Western Conference Scholastic Player of the Year (2016) While Playing Hockey in the Western Hockey League

ORGANIZATIONS

Chartered Financial Analyst, Phoenix Chapter

LEADERSHIP STYLE

So far in my career, I have done my best to emulate the leaders that I admire. In my experience, the most impactful leaders lead by example, are slow to blame, provide support, allow their team to try and fail and leverage the strengths that individuals have. I try to lead through example and guidance rather than rules and delegation.



Tristen Pfeifer

2018 | BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN FINANCE AND ECONOMICS

ADVICE

Try to find a career for which you have a passion. You will do better in your career and live a happier life if you pursue your passion. Ask for advice and align yourself with people you admire. There are all kinds of people in the working world and you truly do become the people with whom you surround yourself. Cold email and call people in positions you find interesting. Successful people love ambition and most are happy to help. Your network is incredibly important. Do things the right way. It takes one decision to destroy your reputation and most industries end up being a very small world. Bet on yourself. Do not settle for a comfortable or easy job.

FURTHER COMMENTS

Professional careers can be time-consuming and competitive. Remember to take a step back and invest time into your family, friends and hobbies. Enjoy the blessing God has given you. The quote, "The days are long and the years are short" could not be more accurate. One of the greatest benefits of college, and specifically GCU, is community. Make a pointed effort to stay connected to your network.



Sara Ritterling

2019 | BACHELOR OF ARTS IN MARKETING AND ADVERTISING DESIGN

CURRENT POSITION Creative Marketing Director at The Maggiore Group

INDUSTRY Marketing

PROFESSIONAL BIO:

Sara Ritterling graduated from GCU with honors in 2019. She was recruited by a national jewelry brand, Gorjana, to oversee the Arizona market as their marketing and events manager before graduating college. She then transitioned into running the day-to-day operations as Gorjana's store manager. When the opportunity for more advancement came along, Sara moved on to P.F. Chang's and worked as their international brand marketing specialist. Sara is currently working as the creative marketing director of The Maggiore Group. Sara has always been passionate about charity, especially now as vice president of her grandmother's nonprofit, Childhelp.

MOST SIGNIFICANT CAREER MILESTONES

I am so grateful God has opened up amazing companies for me to work for and start growing my career in marketing. I am so proud that The Maggiore Group saw an opportunity in me to be part of leadership as a director of marketing.

CAREER HISTORY

Before graduating, I was hired by a national jewelry company to oversee community events and charity involvement. We partnered with local influencers, charities and businesses to host events giving a percentage back to those in need. I was then hired as the brand marketing specialist at P.F. Chang's, where I helped oversee the yearly marketing calendar campaigns, ran social media and hosted events across the U.S. I am currently working as the creative marketing director for The Maggiore Group. Our restaurant concepts are one of a kind and bring joy to every customer. A few of the concepts are Hash Kitchen, The Mexicano, The Sicilian Butcher and Tomasos with more in the works to open in 2023. I am excited to grow all social channels and create successful marketing campaigns with my team.

IMPACT ON FIELD

I have always pushed myself to stay up-to-date with current trends in marketing. I have always participated in networking groups and events around the valley to grow my connections. I learned about the creative marketing director role through one of these events. I have been able to speak at different marketing meetings to help other students learn more about what to expect in marketing roles after college.



Sara Ritterling

2019 | BACHELOR OF ARTS IN MARKETING AND ADVERTISING DESIGN

ORGANIZATIONS

I am highly involved with Childhelp USA, an organization founded by my grandmother and godmother 65 years ago. After graduating, I founded the Arizona Young Professionals chapter for Childhelp, where young adults can give back to children in need. We have had a very successful two years raising over \$25,000 for Childhelp through our campaigns and fundraising.

LEADERSHIP STYLE

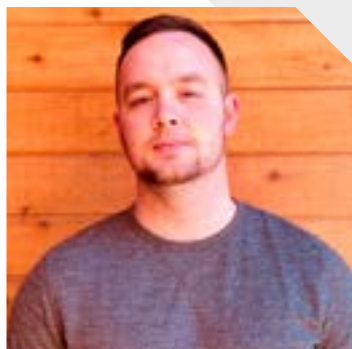
I strive every day to be a leader that uplifts everyone around me and makes them feel worthy. I am so grateful for the people I have led over the last four years. GCU creates an atmosphere that demonstrates what it means to be a hard-working leader, something I experienced during my time on the Canyon Activities Board.

ADVICE

Work hard and push yourself to learn more. There is always room to learn something that can push you to the next level. Take on new projects and ask others around you if you can help them. Lean on God's guidance to open doors for you. Give back to your community because there are so many opportunities to help love and encourage others who need it. Have fun, because life is short and memories created with friends and family will help give you joy on tough days.

FURTHER COMMENTS

I am so grateful to be an alum because GCU changed my life for the better. My husband and I have been season ticket holders for GCU Men's Basketball for the last four years and will be Lopes fans for life!



Cody Roark

2017 | BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN SPORTS MANAGEMENT

OTHER DEGREES Master of Education in Positive Coaching, University of Missouri

CURRENT POSITION National Football League (NFL) Media Analyst at Mile High Sports

INDUSTRY Entrepreneurship

PROFESSIONAL BIO:

While completing a bachelor's degree at GCU, Cody Roark worked with at-risk youth for eight years to reduce substance-related offenses in Grand Junction, Colorado's school district. Cody ventured into sports media afterward, serving in a leading role as Pro Football Network's face and voice of their daily NFL media coverage from 2021 to 2022. Cody moved to Denver and accepted a job with Mile High Sports, a media company, serving as the face and voice of their Denver Broncos media coverage.

MOST SIGNIFICANT CAREER MILESTONES

My most significant career milestones were working with at-risk youth and becoming a supportive advocate for them. We reduced school expulsions for substance-related offenses and reduced reoffend rates significantly. After my teaching career, I achieved several milestones of appearing nationally on news outlets as an analyst covering the NFL.

CAREER HISTORY

I taught students and coached high school football for eight years. I transitioned into sports media full time in 2020, despite being involved for the last eight years.

IMPACT ON FIELD

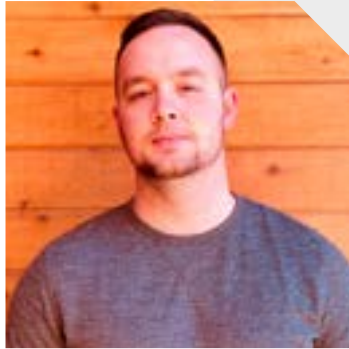
I have changed the way media covers professional athletes by humanizing the players I cover. The toxic-media landscape that previously had a gladiator-sport mentality is changing where I presently am.

AWARDS, ACCOLADES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Appearing on national platforms like TEGNA and Cheddar News.

ORGANIZATIONS

Mile High Sports, Pro Football Network, Grand Junction School District



Cody Roark

2017 | BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN SPORTS MANAGEMENT

LEADERSHIP STYLE

I demonstrate leadership by leading by example with empathy and compassion. I mentor many individuals who want to pursue a career in sports media and always make myself available to those interested. I help create opportunities for others who express interest.

ADVICE

It's okay not to have everything figured out right away. There is no timeline for when things should be accomplished career wise because the road is filled with many twists and turns. Have the utmost belief in yourself because you have made it this far. You are worthy of success. You have put in the work and have made the necessary sacrifices. You are on your own timeline and nobody else's. Be great. Move forward each day with a relentless commitment to pursuing what you believe you deserve, because you do!

FURTHER COMMENTS

I was so grateful for my time at GCU and the courses I went through. It helped define me today.



Joseph Ross

2017 | BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

OTHER DEGREES Master of Communication Management, University of Southern California

CURRENT POSITION High School Pastor at Skyline Church

INDUSTRY Ministry

PROFESSIONAL BIO:

Joseph is passionate about creating a better future for the next generation through education, mentorship and leadership development. He has strived to deliver world-class service to multiple Major League Baseball teams, the National Football League and the Walt Disney Company. In his current role in ministry, Joseph establishes intentional relationships with high school students and equips them to be a spiritual light on their campus. Joseph started with one club of 30 people. Since January 2023, the youth program has grown to reach 11 campuses and over 280 students!

MOST SIGNIFICANT CAREER MILESTONES

At the Walt Disney Company, I was involved in the coordination of the Mad Tea Party at Disney's flagship resort, The Grand Floridian. This event was covered by multiple food and vacation blogs. I was a member of the opening team for Guardians of the Galaxy: Mission Breakout at Disneyland. In ministry, I am proud to have led hundreds of people to commit themselves to Christ and facilitated fundraising that helped send over 40 foster children to camp.

CAREER HISTORY

While I was at GCU, I met with President Brian Mueller who made a phone call for me to get a job at Camelback Ranch, the Los Angeles Dodgers and the Chicago White Sox spring training facility. It was there I met people who worked for the San Diego Padres during the regular season and was offered a job with them that summer. Once the baseball season ended, I packed my bags and went to Orlando, Florida to start my Disney internship. I spent six months at Disney World and seven months at Disneyland. I finished my GCU degree online while working for Disney and started my master's degree at USC shortly after. All along, I thought I was going to work for "the mouse," but God had called me to become a pastor. I dropped everything and went to serve at my local church. I got my first ministry experience as a receptionist and worked my way into the next-generation pastor role. God recently called me to be the high school pastor at the historic Skyline Church.



Joseph Ross

2017 | BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

IMPACT ON FIELD

My team is currently studying Gen Z to find the best ways to empower these students. Less than 20% of Gen Z say that attending church is very important to them and less than 30% say religion is very important to them.¹ We are approaching ministry in California almost as missionaries where we are “planting” churches through school clubs on high school campuses. We are seeing tremendous amounts of impact in San Diego.

AWARDS, ACCOLADES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Summa Cum Laude at GCU

ORGANIZATIONS

Skyline Church, University of Southern California Alumni Association, Grand Canyon University Alumni Association, Urban Youth Collaborative, Wesleyan Denomination, Assemblies of God Denomination

LEADERSHIP STYLE

My leadership style is rooted in a strong sense of purpose and a genuine desire to create positive change for the future. I believe that culture and healthy teamwork is the driving factor for success. I strive to equip those around me with the knowledge they need to lead and inspire those around them.

ADVICE

Every relationship, every class and every day is an opportunity that could lead you to what's next post-grad. Never did I think President Mueller would ever spend an hour with me, but that conversation changed my life. I would not be where I am today had I not simply asked for that meeting. Don't be afraid to ask for an opportunity. When you get it, give it your best.

FURTHER COMMENTS

Thank you so much GCU, Brian Mueller, Jerry Colangelo and the rest of the GCU community for giving me the best experience and opportunity to succeed in life. Special thank you to Andy Schmailzl for getting me started driving the golf cart shuttles on campus — my first opportunity that led to the next.

REFERENCES

¹[Relevant, Less Than 30 Percent of Gen Z and Millennials Attend Church at Least Once a Month](#), Retrieved July 2023

[Survey Center on American Life, Generation Z and the Future of Faith in America](#), Retrieved July 2023

[Barna, A New Chapter in Millennial Church Attendance](#), Retrieved July 2023



Brandon Schilling

2018 | BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION,
MINOR IN ENTREPRENEURIAL STUDIES

CURRENT POSITION Aircraft Sales Manager - Middle East and Africa at MD Helicopter

INDUSTRY Engineering

PROFESSIONAL BIO:

Brandon Schilling is a professional in the aerospace, defense, space systems and maintenance repair and operations (MRO) industries. Brandon is currently working with NASA on large aerospace original equipment manufacturing (OEM). He is a motivated and talented professional who enjoys working in a growth-oriented sales and business development environment.

MOST SIGNIFICANT CAREER MILESTONES

The aerospace industry is a very old and tough industry in which to thrive. One of the largest milestones in my career has been accepting my current role as the business development manager and sales engineer over all of the Asia Pacific region and all of our global helicopter companies. I manage over \$20 million in sales a year at the young age of 25. While most people in aerospace don't get into my role until their thirties or even later, it was an honor to receive this offer and responsibility. The impact I've had on the U.S. military, foreign military and NASA operations is very significant.

CAREER HISTORY

I started my aerospace career shortly after graduating from GCU. I've known since I was very young this is what I wanted to do. By graduation, I had over 200 applications out to different aerospace companies. I finally accepted an offer from Able Aerospace Services in Mesa, Arizona. There I was an account manager working with airlines all over the world and later worked with helicopters as well. I departed Able after a few years and accepted a role with Masten Space Systems in Atlanta, Georgia. At Masten, I was a business development associate focused on building spacecraft for NASA to land on the moon's south pole. I then accepted a role with AmSafe Aviation as a business development manager and sales engineer to oversee all Asia Pacific operations and helicopter companies across the globe.

IMPACT ON FIELD

I believe I have made a large impact and delivered value in many ways. I have delivered thousands of flight-critical parts all over the world. Some of these aircraft parts are so critical, their delivery is a matter of life or death. I've made numerous connections and relationships worldwide while delivering innovative and new products to the market and my customers.



Brandon Schilling

2018 | BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION,
MINOR IN ENTREPRENEURIAL STUDIES

ORGANIZATIONS

I am involved with SuitUp, an organization that runs best-in-class career-readiness programming. Underprivileged students learn what it takes to be a business professional and have the opportunity to either solve a business challenge, compete for a dream job or network with industry professionals.

LEADERSHIP STYLE

I believe leadership is something you do, not something you are. I've continuously risen to challenges and guided teams to success. I understand my team and know not all individuals are the same. Some excel in different areas than others. I try not to fit square pegs into round holes. I build teams with people that excel in areas I do not, which drives our collective success. Lastly, I provide adequate training and resources. A team can't be successful if they are not given the tools they need. I enjoy when individuals come from outside the aerospace industry to launch a new career because it allows me to take the time to educate these individuals on this complex industry.

ADVICE

Many people ask about my career success and what they should do when they feel lost. I always recommend identifying your passion as early as possible and working in that field. I'm extremely passionate about aerospace, so I feel like I don't even go to work. I go enjoy what I love: planes, helicopters and rockets. Sometimes the response is "I'm not sure what I'm passionate about." I believe everyone is passionate about something, even if they don't see it. My advice is to look at what you enjoy talking about or doing in your free time. Maybe you enjoy cars, so why not look for a career with a car manufacturer? Maybe you enjoy computers, so why not look for a career at a tech company and build your resume from there? If you enjoy cars and you have a marketing degree, you will love knowing the impact you make in that company and the value you bring to that company's customers. You can work in any position for a company, but work for a company or industry about which you're passionate!

FURTHER COMMENTS

I'm an extremely proud GCU alum. I wear my class ring every single day. I hope I can inspire current students to look at aerospace as a potential industry or inspire someone to follow their passion and strive to make an impact no matter their title.



Claire Schmaltz

2019 | BACHELOR OF ARTS IN DANCE, MINOR IN COMMUNICATIONS

CURRENT POSITION Community Engagement Manager at Ballet Arizona

INDUSTRY Arts

PROFESSIONAL BIO:

Claire Schmaltz is a nonprofit arts professional and teaching artist who has worked within a range of educational and nonprofit arts organizations. Claire believes that arts education, opportunities for arts engagement and art creation is critical for individuals of all ages. Currently, Claire is the community engagement manager for Ballet Arizona. She serves as the head of the department and manages all programming related to community opportunities to engage with the art of dance. Claire is a trained dancer and holds a Bachelor of Arts in Dance from GCU.

MOST SIGNIFICANT CAREER MILESTONES

Since 2019, I have risen from a part-time intern to the head of the Community Engagement department. I brought the department from a team of one employee to a team of three full-time employees including myself. In the 2021-22 season, I led efforts and executed programming that brought ballet to more than 16,000 Arizonans.

CAREER HISTORY

In February 2019, I joined the Ballet Arizona community engagement team as an unpaid intern. At this time, I was a senior at GCU. In November 2019, I was promoted to a part-time role as the community engagement assistant, a position I held until May 2021. In May 2021, I was promoted to full-time, the first engagement assistant at Ballet Arizona. In October 2021, my team cut down to only my position. I stayed on and executed all community engagement programming, consisting of 15 programs. In November 2021, I was promoted to the community engagement coordinator, finally being promoted to the manager level in March 2022. Since then, I have served as head of the department, bringing on two more full-time employees and building a roster of four teaching artists to support programmatic needs.

IMPACT ON FIELD

During my time at Ballet Arizona, I have been the steward of arts programs that serve to make dance arts accessible to all of Arizona. Our programs consist of educational programs for school students, retired members of the community who wish to keep learning accessible programs for low-income families and scholarship opportunities for youth who may not otherwise be able to pursue dance.



Claire Schmaltz

2019 | BACHELOR OF ARTS IN DANCE, MINOR IN COMMUNICATIONS

LEADERSHIP STYLE

We live in a world where the arts are the first thing to be removed from a budget, even though we live in a time when the arts are increasingly important for mental and emotional health. I lead a team focused on increasing arts accessibility in schools, neighborhoods and communities. I serve as an advocate through my conversations with foundations and grants teams, emphasizing the importance of arts funding and how to increase that reach.

ADVICE

Do a little bit of everything so you have a touch of experience with every job in your field of work. It is critical to explore yourself and learn your strengths and interests. It will also give you empathy for those who work adjacent to you, giving you a clearer picture of how you can support all members of your team and advocate for the better. This is the basis of a servant leader.



Laura Schneider

2022 | MASTER OF EDUCATION IN EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP

OTHER DEGREES Intervention Specialist (Mild to Moderate), University of Dayton;
Gifted Endorsement, University of Cincinnati

CURRENT POSITION Pupil Personnel Coordinator for North College Hill City Schools

INDUSTRY Education

PROFESSIONAL BIO:

Starting out as an intervention specialist in a self-contained behavioral support classroom, Laura Schneider ended her time in the classroom after four years. During that time, she served as the lead intervention specialist in her building. After teaching, she was promoted to take over the gifted department, where she worked on the development of this program. Once Laura completed two years of focusing on gifted education, she moved into a pupil personnel coordinator role to help run the special education department district-wide. Laura continues to wear many hats in this role including: coordinating the gifted department, facilitating referrals for evaluation meetings, serving as a liaison with local trade schools to support resident students with disabilities, supporting outside-placed students and being a member of preschool and multi-tiered systems of support teams.

MOST SIGNIFICANT CAREER MILESTONES

My most significant career milestones include being promoted three times in my seven years with North College Hill City Schools. I moved from a classroom teacher to the lead intervention specialist teacher, to coordinating the gifted department and now I am the pupil personnel coordinator. During my teaching years, my most profound moment was helping a student with severe emotional and behavioral needs graduate after having been on suicide watch three times in two years. As a gifted coordinator, I moved our district's program from zero to 100% compliance in less than two years. Additionally, I worked to include a variety of assessment tools and referral methods moving us from 11 identified students in the district to 46. We also moved from only servicing middle school and elementary students for gifted identification to servicing K12 and added practices to identify students as gifted in visual arts. I was able to increase services through an in-house professional development program I wrote for the gifted department. In my current pupil personnel coordinator role, my director and I have amended and changed policies and procedures to better meet student and family needs. We diligently work to include parent voices in all decisions. We have continually responded to audit requirements and are working on transitional practices to include local agencies and employers to support students after high school.



Laura Schneider

2022 | MASTER OF EDUCATION IN EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP

CAREER HISTORY

Education is the only career job I have ever worked. Before I graduated from my undergrad program, I worked as a camp counselor, volunteered at a local adult transitional program for persons with disabilities and worked in the dining hall of my college. In addition to my current career working at the school, I served at a local Italian restaurant for five years and coached high school girls' basketball.

IMPACT ON FIELD

I think my biggest impact is the passion I have brought to the education field. As noted above, I am fortunate to have reached significant career milestones at this age. However, I think my most valuable attribute is the passion I have for those in the special education category. Whether it is students who are gifted, have behavioral and mental health needs, students with physical or cognitive disabilities and so on, I am truly passionate about their equality and rights. I am a proud advocate, willing to have hard conversations and "go to bat" for the students, no matter the work it takes to get there.

AWARDS, ACCOLADES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Excellence in Special Education Award Winner, University of Dayton; Master's graduate with 3.9 GPA while working full time; High School Staff Member of the Month; Recipient of Multiple "You Make a Difference" Awards

ORGANIZATIONS

SWOCOG Hamilton County, Ohio Gifted Leaders, Council for Exceptional Children, OAGC Coordinators Division, Task Force Hamilton County

LEADERSHIP STYLE

To me, demonstrating leadership looks like leading by example. I show up on time, I dress the part, I am friendly, I stay at work until my work is done, I remain organized and follow deadlines, I follow procedures, I treat others with respect, show the proper regard to authorities and check on my team. Checking on my team includes sending emails of appreciation or small gifts to make them feel seen. This can also be going the extra mile making a meal while they're out for surgery or sending food to support them. Demonstrating leadership for me is showing consideration for the whole person, not just as a coworker who comes to work at the same school building. This job is tough, and part of leading in this field is being able to provide grace and compassion to your employees.



Laura Schneider

2022 | MASTER OF EDUCATION IN EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP

ADVICE

As a current student, my biggest advice is to ask questions, work to understand not just pass and stay organized. Even in my online master's program, all my teachers knew me because I always asked questions. These questions included seeking further guidance so I could work to understand. For me, going to school beyond your undergrad is for fulfilling a passion or goal. Therefore, you should be motivated to truly understand what you are learning, rather than just process the information enough to complete your work. Finally, stay organized. This especially applies if you are doing a self-paced online program. Carve out time in your schedule to get things done and do not procrastinate. Assignments in a graduate program are complex. Waiting until the last minute will never get your grades where you want. As a recent graduate, never sell yourself short. Fake it till you make it! It is easy as the young one to allow older colleagues to push you around or make you feel undeserving. Know your worth and on days you don't know it, fake it. It will eventually become a real feeling. Also, never be ashamed of being the "dumbest" one in the room. That means you're doing a great job surrounding yourself with the right people from which to learn. Being a lifelong learner is a must if you want to be successful.

FURTHER COMMENTS

Being successful doesn't mean anything if you are not happy. Never allow the idea of leadership to override the needs of your heart and your happiness. Work to live a fulfilling life and find passion in the work you do every day. I feel incredibly blessed for the skills and passions God has granted me to get me here. It is all thanks to him.



Kelsie Sebreros

2019 | BACHELOR OF ARTS IN COMMUNICATIONS

2021 | MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

CURRENT POSITION Marketing Manager at Clear Channel Outdoor

INDUSTRY Marketing

PROFESSIONAL BIO:

As a marketing manager for Clear Channel Outdoor, Kelsie serves Phoenix and Tucson advertisers by providing strong out-of-home (OOH) services. She works closely with a team of account executives across the two markets. Kelsie strives to help our sellers connect with advertisers to effectively reach their campaign goals, build a robust story for the power of out-of-home media and ultimately influence audience behavior and drive return on investments for our clients. As a marketing professional, Kelsie is focused on driving marketing and sales collaboration, revenue and continuous growth for the entire southwest region.

MOST SIGNIFICANT CAREER MILESTONES

In just a year and a half with Clear Channel Outdoor I have grown immensely as a marketing professional. One of the most significant and memorable moments in my role was working with our local team and advertisers during Super Bowl LVII. This was one of my first experiences working with large-scale advertising and seeing the impact the big game had across Phoenix was incredible!

CAREER HISTORY

I began my career at Clear Channel Outdoor in 2018 when I was accepted into their internship program on the corporate communication and marketing team in New York. After the internship concluded, I kept my connections in marketing and finished my undergrad. When I graduated from GCU in 2019, I began my career as a marketing project specialist for GCE, working to support the internal marketing efforts of GCU and its enterprises such as GCBC, the Lope Shops and many more. During my time with GCE, I completed my master's in business administration and upon graduation, re-connected with sales and marketing leadership at Clear Channel Outdoor. In January 2022, I began my role as a marketing manager and have had the pleasure of growing as a marketer in the outdoor media space for the past year and a half.

IMPACT ON FIELD

I believe I have had a positive impact on the field of marketing through the attitude and commitment I bring to my work each day. At Clear Channel Outdoor I've had the opportunity to positively impact my professional growth by challenging myself each and every day to step out of my comfort zone. Working as a marketing manager, I am able to craft a story for our sales team and customers that has a lasting impact on their business. In addition, I have impacted my field by sharing my experiences and advice with GCU and ASU students in hopes of shedding light on the possibilities and pathways that exist in the advertising industry.



Kelsie Sebreros

2019 | BACHELOR OF ARTS IN COMMUNICATIONS

2021 | MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

AWARDS, ACCOLADES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

BPSM 2022 Recognition for Outstanding Internship Program; Recognized as a "Hats Off for Great Work" Winner for the Clear Channel Outdoor Southwest Regional Contest

ORGANIZATIONS

Phoenix Chamber of Commerce Young Valley Professionals

LEADERSHIP STYLE

I strive to demonstrate leadership by being a servant leader as often as I can. By serving my team of sales professionals and equipping them with resources and research, I am leading the way for how to approach our clients with effective solutions. By serving my team to the best of my ability, I am able to help them serve their clients directly. As a marketing manager, it is necessary that I not only serve my team but also foster an environment for positive growth in my professional workspace. I demonstrate this through my work by engaging our team in team builders, volunteering activities and get-togethers to encourage engagement across the department.

ADVICE

My advice is to try as many things you're interested in as possible. While I was in my undergrad program, I had the opportunity to try multiple areas of my field from public relations to media buying, allowing me to gain insight into what I enjoyed. I would also say to leverage your professional and personal network as much as possible. My current role is a direct result of nurturing a relationship from an internship I had in the past. I think another big piece of advice is to try new things. This pushed me out of my comfort zone and forced me to challenge myself. You don't have to be 100% qualified, but if you ask questions and take risks you will find there are so many opportunities on the other side!

FURTHER COMMENTS

If you're interested in opportunities in the out-of-home industry or marketing in general, I'd love to chat. Follow me on LinkedIn and send me a message. I'd be more than happy to connect!



Brandon Smith

2016 | BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN MARKETING

2023 | MASTER OF SCIENCE IN BUSINESS ANALYTICS

CURRENT POSITION Manager of Revenue Operations at ZipRecruiter

INDUSTRY Marketing

PROFESSIONAL BIO:

Brandon is a revenue operations leader, skilled in bridging the gap between data, process and technology to implement improvements spanning marketing, sales, product and customer service in the software as service (SaaS) space.

MOST SIGNIFICANT CAREER MILESTONES

My most significant career milestone is my accelerated career growth since graduating from GCU as an intern to becoming a revenue operations department leader. This was accomplished by implementing, administering and engineering a variety of technology at scale for go-to-market teams successes for three different organizations: for marketing, sales and customer service. My expertise ranges from marketing automation programs to customer relationship management (CRM) solutions and business intelligence tools. I have trailblazed attribution reporting for executive leadership to prove effectiveness and grow team resources and headcount, ultimately driving record revenue numbers for each organization I have worked with.

CAREER HISTORY

My professional path began when I was selected in the Major League Baseball Draft after my senior year of high school. While tempted by the glamor of being a professional athlete, I chose to continue my athletic career on the GCU baseball team while pursuing my college degree. Unfortunately, injuries led me down a path of learning through immersion in business. I began my journey in business as a marketing intern at Choice Hotels International. With a lean team, I was able to assist in bringing in new marketing software and prove my competency. As cross-collaborators took notice, I transitioned to the business operations team, expanding my administration from marketing automation software to other business units. My network and proven results expanded beyond the company, creating a path to being recruited as a leader in ZipRecruiter's revenue operations department only seven years after my time as an undergraduate student. At ZipRecruiter, I have implemented technology at a much larger scale, helping our teams present new product features and capabilities to ultimately help a company find their next great hire, and a job seeker their next great work home!



Brandon Smith

2016 | BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN MARKETING

2023 | MASTER OF SCIENCE IN BUSINESS ANALYTICS

IMPACT ON FIELD

Many of these go-to-market technologies come in a pre-defined way. My skill is taking a wide variety of business structures and goals and making tools work for them. My ability to cross-collaborate, upskill others and map these tools to unlock an omnichannel approach for customer strategies has trailblazed how these tools are thought of by the vendor's teams.

AWARDS, ACCOLADES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

15th Round MLB Draft Pick to the Washington Nationals, 2012; New Impact Player Award, 2020; ZipRecruiter Employee of the Quarter Award, Q2 2021; Northern Arizona University W.A. Franke College of Business Speaker Series; Data Marketing Analytics Certification from Cornell University; Marketing Automation Pardot Administrator Certification; Author of "The Upside-Down Book" at Barnes & Noble

ORGANIZATIONS

Red Cross Operation Thanksgiving Volunteer, Notre Dame Preparatory Assistant Baseball Coach, 2018-19

LEADERSHIP STYLE

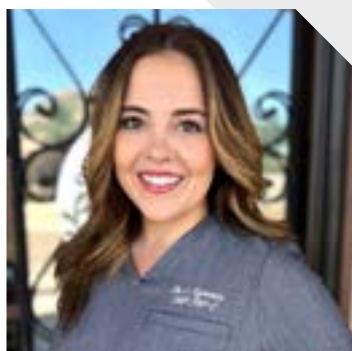
I demonstrate leadership primarily through modeling by example first. I am transparent in my thinking and process to my team and peers, tying in the larger agenda at hand to create dialogue, alignment and ultimately trust in the team. If there are new challenges or skills to be obtained, I pause to ask if this requires a "superhero cape" (tell them how) or a "Yoda hat" (giving them direction and letting them fly). Either way, I let others use their own learning style while remaining alongside them should they need help. Ultimately, if those experiences help improve individuals, processes or offerings to the business, we'll document and share with stakeholders to celebrate accomplishments and expand the trust of other teams.

ADVICE

My advice to current students or recent graduates is from the quote: "Why rush to slow down?" It is easy to compare your journey to that of your peers and think you should be doing more or should be making a certain amount of money by your age. Remember that you're on your own path and no one else's. Treat yourself during this time. Take risks, check out different walks of life (personally and professionally) and go find what you like! Rome wasn't built in a day, and the same goes for your career.

FURTHER COMMENTS

Lopes Up!



Jessica Symmes

2019 | BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

2020 | MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING WITH AN EMPHASIS IN LEADERSHIP IN HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS

2023 | DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE (DNP)

OTHER DEGREES MSN Family Nurse Practitioner, Wilkes University, 2022

CURRENT POSITIONS Medical Surgical Oncology Nurse at Banner; Family Nurse Practitioner at Page Family Practice; Honors College Professor at Grand Canyon University

INDUSTRY Medical

PROFESSIONAL BIO:

Jessica Symmes is a DNP, board-certified family nurse practitioner and registered medical surgical oncology nurse living in Phoenix. She completed her BSN, MSN and DNP at GCU. During her undergrad, Jessica also earned a dance minor and worked for the GCU Honors College. The overarching drive to improve healthcare was instilled very early on in her studies. Jessica also graduated from Wilkes University as a family nurse practitioner in 2022. Jessica currently works as a family nurse practitioner at Page Family Practice, a primary care clinic in Tempe, Arizona, and at Banner Desert Medical Center as a charge nurse on a medical-surgical oncology unit. Jessica additionally teaches at GCU as an honors professor and teaches dance at studios around the valley.

MOST SIGNIFICANT CAREER MILESTONES

I started as an oncology nurse in 2020, then received my MSN from GCU. Soon after, I became a charge nurse. In 2022, I accepted a professor position at GCU. I received a family nurse practitioner degree at Wilkes University in 2022, then began working at a primary care clinic in Tempe, Arizona. I became DNP in 2023.

CAREER HISTORY

I started as an oncology nurse in 2020, a week before the first quarantine. During my first year as a nurse, I received my MSN from GCU and began acting as a charge nurse on the unit. As a charge nurse, I oversee numerous units serving as an escalation point for nurses and helping facilitate staffing and throughput with upper leadership. I accepted a professor position at GCU in 2022 where I teach a class for future nursing students in the Honors College. I became a family nurse practitioner at Wilkes University in 2022 and began working at a primary care clinic in Tempe, Arizona. I graduated with a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree from the College of Doctoral Studies at GCU in 2023.

IMPACT ON FIELD

In the completion of my doctoral dissertation, I implemented the Agency for Health Care Research and Quality (AHRQ) Re-Engineered Discharge toolkit to decrease readmission rates and healthcare utilization in the hospital setting. Through this project, I was able to teach nurses and other healthcare providers to better prepare their patients for discharge and success in the hospital-to-home transition. The implementation of the toolkit decreased readmission rates and aided in preparing patients to guide their own health.



Jessica Symmes

2019 | BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

2020 | MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING WITH AN EMPHASIS IN LEADERSHIP IN HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS

2023 | DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE (DNP)

AWARDS, ACCOLADES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Outstanding Senior Class of 2019; Dean's Selection Award, GCU Honors College; Academic Achievement Award, GCU Honors College; Daisy Award 2021; Warren D. Ruff Scholar 2022; Alpha Chi; Sigma Nursing

ORGANIZATIONS

I currently assist with Tempe Union High School District's art program. I was accepted to participate in the mentoring of nursing students and new hires in the Banner Preceptorship Program. I enjoy having a role in the GCU Honors College through teaching and speaking at orientation. Proud to be a member of the Girl's Rule Dream Panel, mentoring young girls in leadership.

LEADERSHIP STYLE

I have been blessed with many leadership opportunities in my career by acting as a charge nurse. In this role I lead by example, helping nurses and advocating for patients. I have acted as a mentor with the Girl's Rule Foundation in which I support young girls in achieving their goals. I believe leadership is most effective through action. My goal as a leader is to build up those I work with and help them use their individual strengths.

ADVICE

My advice to future graduates is three-fold. First, if an opportunity scares you, it means you're growing. Second, if you are passionate enough about achieving a goal, you will. Third, if your dream seems to be undiscovered, it is up to you to light the path. Many people told me it would be impossible to pursue all of my interests. Instead of listening to their advice, I leaned into those who supported me and told me that if I wanted to, I could. You can. And you will.

FURTHER COMMENTS

Behind every success, there is passion and a foundational layer of support. I am so thankful to my family and friends for constantly supporting me. I want to thank Honors College dean, Dr. Breanna Naegeli for this nomination. Dr. Naegeli, you have been such a foundational part of my educational journey from my first day at GCU. Thank you for being a mentor and role model.

