

Statement of Diversity

David Vasquez

I love Oregon State University and have always been struck by how welcoming this community is. Coming to OSU was a major change for me and I would not have succeeded without the warm support of faculty, staff and other students. It means a lot to me that the Oregon State Community places such a high level of importance on matters of diversity, equity and inclusion.

As an Academic Advisor it is incredibly important that I create this same level of welcome to all the students I deal with. I have almost seven years of experience at OSU where I have worked with and engaged with students from diverse backgrounds and cultures. A few key highlights of my background include four years of experience working in Student Life, three years of teaching experience and gaining my MBA where I worked with an international team on a group thesis.

This role has a strong focus on E-Campus students which can make coordinating and getting to know someone harder. Luckily, I have experience working with students from all over the world that were enrolled in distance classes while a Teaching Assistant in the College of Engineering. In this role I gained experience with the software tools that can help foster positive relationships.

Being an instructor has allowed me to keep learning and implementing new ways to create a welcoming environment. As a first time instructor in the Agricultural Department the Dean of Instruction and interim Dean of Agricultural Science sat in on one of my courses. She wrote this as part of my review, "You do a wonderful job creating an open, welcoming, supportive atmosphere. It's clear your students feel at ease." I was excited to receive this feedback, especially given how nervous I was having the Dean sitting in on my class. In this role I would work to make students feel welcome and graduate with a love of OSU and the Fisheries and Wildlife Department.

A few other components of my background include working as an intern at Legacy Health System helping to construct a program to attract and retain more minority owned vendors. I was able to meet with these business owners and learn about their experience as minority owned and often small businesses. I also have volunteered on both the Disability Affairs and Community Affairs task forces that were a part of an initiative led by President Ray. Finally, I worked for almost four years as a student and then a full-time staff member in the Office of Student Life. In this role I engaged with a diverse audience of students and employers on a day to day basis.

What really draws me to this opportunity is my ability to work first hand with students and help them succeed. While the position is an academically focused role my goal would be to be a good listener who creates opportunity and removes barriers students are facing. During my time in Student Life I was able to learn about the many rich resources offered here on campus and would view myself as promoting academic success but also being knowledgeable about where students can get other types of help.