

### **Working as a Practitioner and Scholar**

I feel strongly that becoming an effective practitioner and scholar is crucial to succeeding in the field of Higher Education. I also feel that this model is critical to continued success in any field. For instance, I currently work as a Software Engineer and we just had a large meeting about integrating AWS into our core business practices. This is a complex process over turning years of previous know how and work; one fraught with risk but also promising rewards like integrating machine learning into our existing infrastructure. Higher education is faced with these same types of challenges and issues every day and those able to understand scholarship and practice will be able to make the most positive contributions to their field.

While I hope to move back into the field of Higher Education I have seen more and more the importance of combining scholarship and practice. Even the most effective research can be traced to real life practical issues. This is one of the reasons the Harvard Business Review has become so popular, it bridges academia and real life business. In the CSSA Program I look forward to growing and learning in both of these areas. I am especially excited about the academic knowledge I would gain from the curriculum. For instance I would be particularly excited to take Multicultural Issues in Higher Education and Fundamentals of Counseling. I have no formal training in either of these areas and feel these courses and the other curriculum would be crucial to my career in Higher Education, hopefully as a Resident Director. While working as an Instructor I have felt lacking in my knowledge of both of these areas.

Next, I find the role of putting knowledge into practice to be a crucial element of the CSSA program. As I mention in my Statement of Academic and Career Objectives I met many of the CSSA students while I worked at the Career Development Center and loved how all of them were active in a Department at OSU working with students every day. I am really excited about the opportunity to bridge my course work with real world practice.

I do have some background I hope to be able to bring to this program as both a scholar and a practitioner. During my master's degree I engaged with faculty in the College of Engineering designing digital radiation detection software as part of a research grant through the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. I also co-authored and was awarded a research grant for utilizing this software as part of their distance education curriculum. I was able to put my

experience into practice when I was hired to teach part time in the Diagnostic Imaging Program at Linn Benton Community College. There I worked hands on with students helping to bridge academic curriculum like Radiation Biology with hands on patient care.

This is a concept that I still know very little about and feel that the program could help me to continue to grow in my understanding of this concept and how to implement it successfully in my career in Higher Education. One of my goals is to become a Resident Director who is able to create welcoming and inclusive communities that allow students to learn and grow. I feel that if I am able to function as both a Practitioner and a scholar I will be the most effective in working towards this goal.