

FEBRUARY 2022

THE SAHE SCOOP

University of Colorado Colorado Springs

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Hello and welcome to 2022! The SAHE program continues to see students excelling in their professional positions despite the COVID-19 pandemic. Almost 20% of our current students moved into full time positions just since the end of 2021! We are so excited for their new professional opportunities to connect theory to practice all before officially receiving their masters degree. The value that UCCS and local institutions place on our students' learning is a great partnership that we have in the Southern Colorado region. We also just get lucky with really amazing people who want to pursue their degree with us!

I say this frequently, but as we embark on our Mock Interview Night and Graduate Assistantship process, we can't do any of it without our amazing volunteers. Alumni and Friends of SAHE seek to create professional development opportunities for our students, which enhances their education.

I wish you all the best for the Spring 2022 semester, whatever it will bring. Thank you for the continued support of the SAHE program's growth and SAHE students' development!

- Dr Patty Witkowsky

PRACTICUM HIGHLIGHT

2nd year cohort member Katie Pritchard (She/Her) delves into her practicum experience.



Tell us a little bit about yourself and background.

I did one year of college after high school and realized quickly I didn't really know what direction I wanted to go with my college journey at that time. I had always loved to learn and came from a family that valued learning, so not earning my degree was a huge regret. I did many things, including having two beautiful daughters and running my own business, before taking the leap to go back to school. In 2017, I started back at Pikes Peak Community College and then transferred to UCCS in 2018. Just before graduating with my bachelor's in May 2020, several important and influential people in my life suggested I think about the SAHE program. I loved the idea of supporting college students to earn their degrees just as I had achieved my dream of finally finishing my degree.

What practicum did you complete during your 2nd year in the program and what drew you to it?

I chose to do my practicum with Academic Advising here at UCCS. I started working on my practicum in May and finished my hours in December. I had been interested in a practicum with Academic Advising since beginning the SAHE program. The thought of building personal connections with students was a main reason I decided to pursue a career in higher education.

What was a typical workday like and what duties did your position consist of?

My hours were incredibly varied and for much of the practicum, I was able to make my hours and work at my own pace. During the summer, I observed and helped the Advisors at the Orientation Open Houses held on Fridays, which were usually about 4 hours. I observed many of the advisors' appointments with their students and learned so much. Once a week I met with my practicum supervisor and we talked about what work I had done, what steps to work on next, and what I had learned.

What was the most important thing you learned from your practicum experience?

I learned that I love working with Undecided students. So often these students face the stigma that they are lazy or indecisive, when instead they are curious, motivated, and have so many possibilities. Doing my practicum in Academic Advising really confirmed for me that Advising is the functional area I want to work in. I love listening to students, giving them self-reflection tools, and connecting them with the resources they need to be successful.

What advice would you give 1st year cohort members about their future practicums?

Explore all the opportunities for practicums that you can. Reach out to departments and institutions that you're interested in working with, even if you aren't sure they are looking for a practicum student. Explore the functional areas you're interested in and think you might want to work in after graduation. Then use the time in your practicum to consider if that's the functional area you want to work in. When you've found your practicum, integrate that experience into your coursework. I used what I was learning in my practicum for the assignments in the Assessment and Evaluation class, which helped me learn even more about both my practicum and the assessment needs of Academic Advising. Just as I was finishing my practicum, a few positions became available in Advising. I applied and got the job. I'm sure that part of the reason I got the position was what I learned while doing my practicum. I'll start my new position as an Academic Advisor at UCCS in February and I'm so excited to continue working with students and learning about advising.

A CLOSER LOOK INSIDE THE CAREER CENTER

Recent Fall SAHE graduate, Bailey Ashida (She/Her), gives us a behind the scenes look into her new position at the T. Rowe Price Career and Innovation Center.

Tell us a bit about yourself and background.

My name is Bailey Ashida and I grew up in Swink and Ordway, Colorado. I have been working in higher education for almost six years now! I attended Otero Junior College for my Associate of Arts degree before transferring to the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley to study Sociology. I then completed a SAHE certificate through Colorado State University while working as an admission counselor for UNC. I knew I wanted to complete my master's through UCCS, so I made the move to Colorado Springs in July 2020 to start the program, work as an academic advisor at Pikes Peak Community College, and as Dr. Witkowsky's graduate assistant.

What do you enjoy about working in the T. Rowe Price Career and Innovation Center?

The best part about working in the T. Rowe Price Career and Innovation Center is the amazing team we have! The four of us current professional staff all bring unique innovations to the table and it's incredible to work with my best friends. We are constantly thinking of ways to be a small but mighty team as well as to inspire the students and alumni we serve. Danny Pape is a strong leader who brought the new T. Rowe Price Career and Innovation Center to life as well as connected us back into the mold of UCCS. I'm grateful to be a part of the new changes and watch the career center prosper.

How did SAHE prepare you for your job?

Completing the SAHE program was the quintessential puzzle piece I needed to reach the next level in my career. Not only has my degree helped me promote student development, but it has also given me



transferable skills that make me marketable in countless career paths within and outside of higher education. I'm looking forward to seeing what doors the flexibility of the Leadership degree will open for me in the future. I will always attribute my skills in communication, leadership, data analysis, assessment, statistics, event planning, advocacy, and community building to my studies in both Sociology and Student Affairs.

What advice would you give to students interested in working in the T. Rowe Price Career and Innovation Center?

If you are interested in a career in career services, come talk to us!! Our current team of coaches (myself, Brie Escobedo, Sarah Fillman, and Danny Pape) can tell you our stories of happenstance and what career choices led us to higher education. Informational interviews are one of the top ways to learn from people who are already in your desired field, but also to show that you have initiative before a job posting even exists. My second piece of advice would be to sign up for frequent alerts on HigherEdJobs.com. Peruse the job postings that stick out to you and take notes of the trends in qualifications as well as what experience you still need. There are positions in career services open in Colorado and across the country!



LECTURER SPOTLIGHT

Learn more about one of the new SAHE Program Lecturers, Jesse Perez (He/Him).

A little bit about Jesse and his SAHE background.

Jesse Perez (He/Him) is currently the Director of the Excel Languages Center at UCCS. He has worked on the UCCS campus for 15 years, 9 as professional staff. Jesse's passion for CU stems from his own student-centered experiences as a first-generation college student from rural southern New Mexico through which he developed a passion for helping other students transform their lives through education. Jesse earned undergraduate and graduate degrees from UCCS and is currently a doctoral student in the CU Denver School of Education and Human Development. Aside from his staff duties, he is a Faculty Instructor for the Gateway Program Seminar, an advisor to various cultural and identity-centered student organizations, and volunteers for various nonprofit organizations that provide resources and support for marginalized communities.

How did you get into the field of student affairs?

I worked on campus during my entire undergrad career. I worked for various student support services on campus and found a passion for student affairs. This passion stemmed from my own experiences being mentored by SA

professionals and my own experiences paying it forward by supporting other students. Education changed the trajectory of my life and for me I feel it happened by luck. Students shouldn't be led to higher education by luck. I am in this profession to increase access and address issues of equity in education so that students and their families can navigate the educational system with more ease and experience more inclusivity.

How did you end up working and teaching at UCCS?

I am what we consider to be "homegrown" at UCCS. I completed my degrees here, was mentored here, and transitioned into professional role. And I never left! Dr. Sandy Ho recommended me to teach in COE.

What are you most looking forward to as one of the new SAHE lecturers?

I am very excited to share my institutional knowledge and passion for student affairs with my students. Internship experiences can be very formative experiences for students and I am excited to see my students grow and to have the opportunity to help them navigate these experiences.

ALUMNI UPDATES

Congratulations to our past graduates on beginning new adventures, positions, and awards.

Ricky Ortiz - Class of 2018

New Position: Academic Advising Coordinator at The Colorado School of Mines

Sarah Elsey - Class of 2013

New Position: Student Engagement Coordinator in the Collaborative for Community Engagement at Colorado College

Alex Baker - Class of 2018

New Position: CARE Team and Student Support Program Director for the Dean of Students Office

Jake Murphy - Class of 2018

New Position: University Recruiter for Facebook

Chris Mellot - Class of 2014

New Position: Office for Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution at CU Boulder

Ann Schwab - Class of 2019

New Position: Assistant Registrar for Curriculum Management at UCCS

Keelan Bailey - Class of 2021

New Position: Donor Relations and Prospect Development Coordinator at CSU Pueblo

Noelle San Souci - Class of 2017

New Position: Associate Director of Student Engagement in the Office of Student Life at UCCS

Ray Fisco - Class of 2016

New Position: Grants Projects Coordinator for NASPA

Cydney Hughes - Class of 2020

New Position: Career Counselor at CU Denver

Kaeley Neppel - Class of 2020

Admission into the Creighton University Interdisciplinary Leadership Doctorate (EdD) Program

Jeff Turner - Class of 2019

New Position: Student Conduct Coordinator at the University of Wisconsin-Madison

Chelsea Mellot - Class of 2017

New Position: Hall Director at CU Boulder

Amner Carmona - Class of 2020

New Position: Project Manager/Business Analyst - Student, Financial Aid & Advancement with the Colorado Community College System

conGRATulations!



**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR
WONDERFUL FALL 2021 GRADUATES!
TREVOR HARDIN, TÉA PINO, AND BAILEY ASHIDA**

UPCOMING EVENT FOR FULL-TIME STUDENT AFFAIRS STAFF AT UCCS:

CYBERSECURITY CRASH COURSE

BECOME A DIGITAL LEADER IN STUDENT AFFAIRS

LOCATION: *UCCS KETTLE CREEK ROOM*

DATE: *TUESDAY, APRIL 5TH, 2022*

TIME: *9:00 AM TO 1:00 PM*

COME LEARN ABOUT:

- DIGITAL IDENTITY DEVELOPMENT
- DEVELOPING CYBERSECURITY LITERACY
- MULTICULTURAL COMPETENCE IN TECHNOLOGY
- ONLINE ENGAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP

REGISTER HERE BY FRIDAY, MARCH 25TH:

"Financial support is a result of State of Colorado Senate Bill 18-086"



UCCS Student Affairs
in Higher Education
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO
COLORADO SPRINGS

THANK YOU TO ALL OF THE MOCK INTERVIEW NIGHT VOLUNTEERS!

WE APPRECIATE YOUR TIME!

Ashley Mohrenweiser, Robbie Armstrong, Carlie
Snethen, Bailey Ashida, Stephen T. Cucchiara,
Zach Johnson, Tam Doane, Alex Baker, Krista
Wallace, Stephanie Trujillo, Beckie Pyles Munoz,
Tricia Timney, Sarah Long, Noelle San Souci,
Jennifer Fisher, Bri Walls