LEAD 6830: Practicum Proposal for Student Affairs in Higher Education

Division: Student Success
Department: UCCS Presents/University Center and Event Services
Operational Area: UC Programming/UCES Student Employment Program
Staff: 100 students and 14 professionals
Locations: University Center/Ent Center for the Arts and other locations across campus.
Mentor: Alejandro De Jesus**,** Associate Director for Event Services
Hours available: 100 total (60 Administrative, 40 Student Contact)
Start/End Date: Flexible
Hours Availability: Normal Business Hours

Department Overview:
The University Center, centrally located on campus, has you covered in many ways! From comfortable lounges, study areas, and game rooms to convenient services. The University Center houses many of the campus' student services such as, the Department of Student Life, Student Government Association, M.O.S.A.I.C, Copy Center, and much more!
University Center and Event Services department provides professional support and services to UCCS students, faculty, staff, and the greater community through event coordination, facility usage, and personal development. As stewards of the University Center, we strive to provide a safe, welcoming, and engaging environment through programming, educational opportunities, services, and facilities.

UC Programming Overview:
UC programming is a multi-faceted events series that is dedicated towards providing students with opportunities to be entertained, make authentic connections, provide an alternative to toxic activities, and explore their interests/passions in a safe environment. By using student feedback to empower student involvement, UC Programming will collaborate, sponsor, and execute various opportunities for students to enhance their overall experience at UCCS.

Why is UC Programming necessary? Such programming is often viewed as a way to help students avoid negative social situations and/or behaviors that can lead to such tragic outcomes as "fatal car accident[s], date rape or death from alcohol poisoning" (Waltrip, p. 36). According to US Department of Health and Human Services figures, "it is estimated that, of the 10.4 million 12-20-year old's who drink alcohol, 29.4% are classified as binge drinkers, and 6.0% are classified as heavy drinkers" (Latta, p. 39). Additionally, "Wechsler and Kuo [2000] reported that in 1999 approximately two of five students enrolled in four-year colleges and universities were 'binge' or 'high risk' drinkers" (Latta, p. 39). With these considerations in mind, it may be incumbent upon student programming organizations to consider activities that are intrinsically alcohol-free or that distract students from drinking and the

harmful and/or illegal behaviors that may result. This is where late-night programming can be extremely helpful. Assessment of existing late-night programs has shown that when such programming is available to students, negative alcohol-related behaviors decrease.

Program Goals:
1. Provide students with alternate to alcohol related activities through alcohol-free programing.
2. Offer a variety of quality programs that will meet the interests of a diverse student body.
3. Provide pathways for authentic connection and inclusive community, encouraging student involvement in leadership, planning, and co-sponsoring programs.
4. Highlight the offerings at the University Center for student's casual use: "living room of campus"

Learning Outcomes:
- As a result of attending UC programming activities, students will enhance their feeling of engagement, belonging, and loyalty.
- As a result of attending UC programming activities, students will be exposed to programs/events that are not possible to attend in the local community.
- As a result of attending UC programming activities, students will have the ability to meet and interact with individuals that have similar and differing opinions and beliefs on a variety of subjects.
- As a result of attending UC programming activities, students will be exposed to programs/events that illustrate opinions and beliefs differing from their own.

UCES Employment Program Overview:
The University Center and Event Services (UCES) department provides professional support to the University of Colorado Colorado Springs' (UCCS) students, faculty, staff, and the greater community through Campus event coordination, facility usage, as well as University Center programming and informational/ID services, all while providing opportunities for personal and professional development. To best serve UCCS's needs and to support its commitment to student learning and success, the UCES department looks to provide employment opportunities for students that may offset the cost of education and provide students with valuable experience to help students be prepared to graduate and achieve their desired goals.

As stated in our campus mission statement "We advance knowledge, integrate student learning with the spirit of discovery, and broaden access to higher education for the benefit of southern Colorado, the state, nation and world." ("UCCS Mission, Vision, and Values", 2016). To capture the spirit of these words, the UCES department looks to collaborate with students to administer an adaptable employment program that integrates principals of integrity, inclusion, and innovation.

Program Goals:

1. Contribute to University retention and graduation goals through the delivery of an intentionally designed student employee development program.
2. Create a developmentally focused and engaging environment for both student and professional employees to thrive and succeed.
3. Continually improve programs and service by providing well-considered training and ongoing development experiences for its employees, both professional and students.
4. Develop staff in a way that empowers them to contribute to operations and functions in a meaningful way.

Program Learning Outcomes:
Setting and achieving learning outcomes in a student employment setting can aid in learning transferable skills and abilities, which can be useful in various settings. By using applicable student development theories, stating simple and clear learning outcomes, students and staff can be empowered to operate within those parameters to find their own path to success.

Students who work for UCES will be able to:
Critical Thinking
- Exhibit excellent Communication Skills
- Display strong Problem-Solving abilities

Decision Making
- Develop values of Accountability and Ethical Behavior
- Show a capacity for good Teamwork

Self-Regulation
- Understand their impact on others
- Learn to manage emotions/stress effectively

Practicum Supervision:
Your mentor will provide supervision, advising, and training. Some activities will involve direct supervision, while others will require independent work.

Practicum Learning Outcomes:
- Gain experience in student programming.
- Learn to work with and program for a diverse population of students.
- Develop an understanding how to use data in developing and accessing student programs.
- Understand major functions of a high functioning student-focused employment program.
- Learn how to design and implement training content for student employees.

Practicum Core Competencies:
- Law, policy, and governance
- Technology
- Advising and Supporting
- Leadership
- Student Learning and Development
- Personal and Ethical Foundations

Practicum Learning Activities:

Administrative: Design, implement, and assess a student focused program. Develop Student Employment training, all-hands meeting, or employment feature. Work with relevant department work teams by collaborating to produce programs and employment functions. Attend regular update, logistical and planning meetings.

Student Contact: Shadow/Train Student staff in desk coverage, administrative duties. Attend relevant student clubs/orgs/groups meeting and or events, in support of robust student programming and related administrative support. Support student employment program: meet individually with student employees to address academic, career, and personal goals. Assist in student employment evaluation and assessment functions.

Desired Qualifications:

Must be enrolled in UCCS SAHE Graduate Program.

Must have a 3.0 or higher GPA

Must possess the ability to work independently and in groups to complete projects.

Previous event management experience a plus.

To Apply:

Contact – Alejandro DeJesus, Associate Director of University Center & Event Production, (719) 255-3719, adejesus@uccs.edu.