Student Affairs Philosophy Statement

Matthew Bencker

St. Cloud State University

CCSD 610: Introduction to Student Affairs and Student Development

Dr. Ashlee

11/26/2023

As a dedicated student affairs professional, I am committed to creating an inclusive and engaging campus environment that fosters holistic student development. My philosophy is grounded in the belief that higher education is a transformative journey, and student affairs are pivotal in shaping this experience. The ACPA/NASPA Professional Competency Areas serve as the foundation for my practice, guiding my efforts to support students in their academic, personal, and social growth.

**Learning and Student Development:** I believe in the power of intentional learning experiences to foster student growth. I aim to cultivate a culture of lifelong learning and self-discovery by designing programs and initiatives that address diverse learning and developmental needs.

**Social Justice and Inclusion:** Inclusivity is at the heart of my approach. I strive to create an environment where every student feels valued, heard, and supported. Through awareness, education, and advocacy, I aim to dismantle barriers and promote equity, diversity, and social justice on campus.

**Leadership:** I recognize the potential for leadership in every student. My role is to nurture and develop leadership skills by providing opportunities for students to explore their strengths, embrace challenges, and become ethical and responsible leaders in their communities.

**Law, Policy, and Governance:** Upholding ethical standards and legal responsibilities is paramount. I am committed to navigating the complex landscape of laws, policies, and governance structures to ensure a safe, respectful, and inclusive environment for all students.

**Organizational and Human Resources:** Effective collaboration and resource management are essential for success. I work collaboratively with campus partners to optimize resources, streamline processes, and create a cohesive support system that enhances student experience.

**Personal and Ethical Foundations:** My work is guided by a strong ethical framework and a commitment to personal and professional growth. I strive to model integrity, empathy, and authenticity, creating an environment where students can develop their ethical foundations.

**Assessment, Evaluation, and Research:** Continuous improvement is central to my practice. By engaging in ongoing assessment, evaluation, and research, I seek to enhance the effectiveness of student affairs programs and services, ensuring they align with the evolving needs of our diverse student population.

In summary, my student affairs philosophy centers on creating a student-centered, inclusive, and empowering environment that aligns with the ACPA competencies. Through intentional practices, collaboration, and a commitment to ongoing growth, I aim to contribute to the holistic development of each student and the overall success of our campus community.

Bibliography

ACPA—College Student Educators International & NASPA - Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education. (2014). *Professional competency areas for student affairs educators - NASPA*. NASPA - Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education. https://www.naspa.org/images/upload/main/ACPA\_NASPA\_Professional\_Competencies\_FINAL.pdf