

SYCORA A. WILSON-JAMES

EDUCATION

Doctor of Education, Educational Leadership for Change, 2016

Concentration: Leadership of Higher Education Systems

Fielding Graduate University, Santa Barbara, CA

Dissertation title: *The Impact of Appreciative Education on the Retention of Latina Students in the First Year of Higher Education.*

Master of Education, College Student Affairs, 1999

Azusa Pacific University, Azusa, CA

Bachelor of Arts, Social Science, 1993

Concentration: Anthropology, Ethnic Studies, Sociology

Humboldt State University, Arcata, CA

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Assistant Professor of Instruction

Entering Student Program

The University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP)

Fall 2009-present

Leadership in Higher Education

The course focuses on the changes and challenges of leading in U.S. higher education over the past four decades. Students dialogue on how higher education is affected by social issues, politics, technological advances, and the economy. Students learn about influential leaders in higher education, positive leadership styles, and discover their own leadership style and how to apply leadership skills in their academic, personal and professional lives. Students are encouraged to be active leaders and agents of change in their community. The course also places strong emphasis on academic, career, and life skills necessary to succeed at the college level.

UTEP Prep Coordinator

Entering Student Program

January 2018-present

- Work closely with Enrollment Services (Office of Admissions and Recruitment; New Student Orientation, Registration and Records) and the Office of Innovations in Outreach in recruiting efforts for UTEP Prep.
- Collaborate with departments in academic affairs, student affairs, and business affairs in the planning and implementation of UTEP Prep.
- Work with University Communication and Student Affairs in program marketing and recruitment efforts.
- Supervise a graduate intern and 7 peer educators who are members of the UTEP Prep administrative team.
- Visit area high schools to promote summer enrollment for accepted students.

- Enact disciplinary action on program participants when necessary.
- Resolve conflict between students and parents with various offices on-campus.
- Resolve salary issues for faculty.
- Manage a budget of \$50,000.

Peer Leader Manager

Entering Student Program

January 2018-November 2019

- Vital member of Entering Student Program administrative team.
- Recruited, supervised, and trained 70+ undergraduate students on teaching strategies and classroom management in the University Studies course for the Entering Student Program.
- Aided in the professional and leadership development of 70+ undergraduate students including two Peer Leader trainers.
- Conducted workshops for faculty on working effectively with peer educators.
- Monitored peer educator work hours outside of the classroom.
- Co-supervised the training and leadership development of 60+ students in the Student Leadership Institute.
- Collaborated with the Office of New Student Orientation in the selection, training, and leadership development of 60 orientation leaders.
- Coordinated orientation sessions for new students majoring in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.
- Supervised 12 orientation leaders for the College of Science and the College of Engineering.
- Resolved conflict among peer leaders and faculty.
- Coordinate the UTEP Prep summer bridge program.

CURRENT MEMBERSHIPS

Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE)

National Resource Center on the First Year Experience and Students in Transition (FYE)

Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education (NASPA)

Women's Network for Gender Empowerment (WNGE)

SERVICE TO NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Conference proposal reviewer, NASPA (2013-present), ASHE (2014)

AWARDS/HONORS

15-year Service Award, University of Texas at El Paso, 2016