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SOLES '18 | Master of Arts, Nonprofit Management and Leadership

[Religious Affiliation: None]



Can you tell me about the work that you do? What are your responsibilities and what aspects of your job bring you the greatest sense of fulfillment?

I work to identify funding opportunities to support my organization's mission of improving the quality of life for our community through economic development and education opportunities. In this work, I am responsible for reviewing potential partnerships, crafting cases for support, researching changing needs and trends, and writing reports to funders to share the impact their support has had. The aspect of this work that gives me the greatest sense of fulfillment is seeing the direct impact our work has on the lives of our participants. In addition to this, it is a tremendous feeling to know that the work we do matters every single day and that in the long term, we are creating a stronger and more equitable community where everyone has the chance to succeed.



How would you identify your core personal values or beliefs? In what ways do those values/beliefs inform your work today?

My personal values are honesty, teamwork, and caring for those who are in need. I believe that everyone deserves to have a life that is safe, healthy, and happy.



How did you end up in your current role?

What has your vocational journey looked like across time?

I came to this role last year when I was seeking a new job opportunity in the community where I grew up. This is a very rural area with limited resources, but it is growing and changing rapidly. Giving back to the communities that raised me is a very important value of mine and, when I saw the opportunity to join an anti-poverty and economic development organization, I was thrilled. I feel very fortunate to have the chance now to bring the valuable skills I learned through my education at USD back to this region and to help make it a stronger place.

My vocational journey began with volunteering at a small nonprofit organization while completing my undergraduate studies. During this time, I saw the potential that nonprofit organizations can have in a community and the power people can have when working to make social change for the better. This inspired me to seek work opportunities to join organizations that are making a positive difference in the world. I started with entry-level administrative jobs, then moved into fundraising, and now am focused on development. I love knowing that the work I'm part of is changing our part of the world in so many ways.

What advice would you offer to USD students as they seek to identify a vocation that will allow them to lead lives of meaning, purpose, and social impact?

I would advise USD students to take time to reflect on what their strengths are and to research who in the community is doing the work they are passionate about. How could you help make it better? What do you wish you could see happening in your community? Our words and actions are so powerful -- know that what you do will make a difference in the lives of others. Remember that you have communities and people who share your passion. Teamwork and collaboration will always get you closer to making your dreams a reality.

Is there anything else that you would like to add?

I am so very happy my educational path brought me to USD. I learned so much there about the impact we can make in the world. Even when the work seems impossible at times, we all have something positive we can contribute and together we are making the world a better place.
Go Toreros!

