

## **CRAIG ERIC CHESSON, PH.D**



### **EDUCATION:**

**COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY**, Fort Collins, Colorado  
Doctorate of Philosophy in Educational Leadership Program, May 2009  
Masters of Science in Student Affairs in Higher Education, May 2001

**ROCHESTER INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY**, Rochester, NY  
Bachelors of Science in Hotel/Restaurant Management, November 1990

### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE:**

Capstone in Student Affairs (HEED678) 1/09 – Present  
Co-Teach Capstone course for the Student Affairs in Higher Education program. The course is designed to integrate all concepts, theories, and principles learned through the program.

Financial Management in Student Affairs (HE695V) 1/06 - 5/06  
Taught Financial Management in Student Affairs with the Vice President of Student Affairs. Responsible for leading class discussions, facilitating activities, and creating lesson plans.

Resident Assistant Class 2/01-4/01  
Created lesson plans for this 8 week seminar. Facilitated class discussion on leadership development and communication skills for undergraduate students

Inclusive University (HE 692AV) 1/00 - 5/00  
Co-taught Inclusive University with the Associate Vice President for Student Affairs. Responsible for developing lesson plans, classroom discussions, and grading assignments. Inclusive University is designed to provide an understanding of the complexity of differences within the campus community.

### **INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE:**

#### **Semester at Sea (Fall 2016 Voyage)**

Served as Assistant Dean of Students on the Fall 2016 voyage. Semester at Sea is an education abroad program that educates individuals with the global understanding necessary to address the challenges of our interdependent world. The shipboard program integrates multiple-country study, interdisciplinary coursework, and hands-on field experiences for meaningful engagement in the global community. As Assistant Dean of Student Life promoted student success and managed student crises. Administered the student code process and supervised student employees.

#### **Merida, Mexico January, 2013**

Led a group of Student Affairs graduate students to the Universidad Autonoma de Yucatan (UADY) to engage in a unique cultural experience. Participants studied the various forms of Higher Education in Mexico and presented current issues in Higher Education in the United States to students and administrators at UADY.

#### **Merida, Mexico November 2011**

Traveled with a delegation of Colorado State University students to the Universidad Autonoma de Yucatan (UADY) for a meaningful leadership, service and language exchange. The trip included elements of cultural immersion and interactive experiences with Mexican undergraduate students.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

**COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY**, Fort Collins, Colorado State University

**Associate Dean of Students** 7/16 – Present

Responsible for assisting the Dean of Students provide leadership within the Division of Student Affairs on initiatives that impact students. Areas of emphasis entails student crisis management, student conduct administration, and students residing off campus.

- Assist the Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs/Dean of Students in providing leadership, vision, communication, strategic planning, and other educational initiatives to ensure student success for the Campus Life Cluster.
- Responsible for Student Resolution Center, Student Case Management, and Off-Campus Life, with budgets exceeding one million dollars.
- Serve as the main Division of Student Affairs contact for campus emergency situations involving students or when multiple crisis situations require attention.
- Provide vision and strategic planning leadership for campus wide student crisis response and support.
- Serve on and provide leadership to committees and task forces, representing the Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs/Dean of Students.
- Serve as a member of the Student Consultation Team and educate campus on the purpose and benefits of this group.
- Serve as a member of the Incident Bias Consultation Team.
- Collaborate with on and off campus programs and resources to provide educational programs for student success.
- Encourage and maintain community relations in regard to student needs within the college, local and broader community.
- Participate in the university after-hours on-call crisis management rotation system.
- Assist with policy development in the areas of prevention related to alcohol, other drugs, and the Student Conduct Code.
- Co-facilitate Graduate Assistant Training and other campus-wide staff and student trainings.
- Work on special projects and initiatives as identified by the Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs/Dean of Students and Vice President for Student Affairs.

**COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY**, Fort Collins, Colorado State University

**Assistant Dean of Students** 9/10 – 6/16

Responsible for assisting the Dean of Students provide leadership within the Division of Student Affairs on initiatives that impact students. Areas of emphasis entails crisis management, supporting various student populations, professional development, and assist the Division of Student Affairs create strategies to collaborate with Academic Affairs.

- **Serve as Director of Conflict Resolution & Student Conduct Services.**
- Serve as a member on the Employee and Student consultation teams in order to provide leadership on student and employee issues. The goal is to develop a comprehensive plan for students and employees in crisis.
- Chair the Professional Development Committee for the Division of Student Affairs. The mission of the committee is to design opportunities for staff in the division to participate in trainings and or speakers that will enhance their personal and professional development
- Serve as a member on the Internationalization Operations Committee. This committee focuses on designing ways to internationalize the campus.
- Provide leadership to the Campus Life Cluster by facilitating meetings and creating an environment of collaboration. The Campus Life Cluster consists of six units.
- Oversee and manage the office of Conflict Resolution & Student Conduct Services.
- Assist with projects delegated from the Vice President of Student affairs office.

**COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY**, Fort Collins, Colorado

**Director of Conflict Resolution & Student Conduct Services** 9/06 - Present

Responsible for providing leadership for civility and civic education related initiatives, serving as the senior university judicial officer, providing leadership in managing crisis situations related to students, advocating for student interests, encouraging student development, and representing the Division and/or University.

- Serve as senior discipline officer for the University by providing leadership for campus student judicial functions. Supervise and train all University Hearing Officers. Provide training, consultation, and support to the Pre-Admission Review Committee and the University Discipline Committee
- Provide consultation, training, direction, and support for faculty and staff related to student trends, academic integrity, student behavior issues, and character development
- Assist students and families with concerns, problems, or challenges
- Represent the Division of Student Affairs on occasion in the greater University community
- Provide leadership for the outreach efforts to families of Colorado State University students, including orientation presentations, publications, and special programs
- Provide information and consultation regarding the maintenance of student records according to Federal Laws. Maintain all student disciplinary records in accordance with FERPA requirements
- Act as official judicial liaison with the Colorado State University Police Department, the Fort Collins Police Department, the Larimer County District Attorney's Office, and the University General Counsel
- Supervise the Graduate Assistant in the Conflict Resolution and Student Conduct Services office
- Collaborate with the academic colleges to promote all academic integrity issues and adjudicate academic misconduct cases from the Graduate School.
- Contribute to management and maintenance of the Maxient database.
- Researches and interprets best practices, and higher education trends and relevant legislation/laws including, but not limited to, Title IX, VAWA, Clery Act, and Campus SaVe, working toward institutional compliance.
- Coordinate the student affairs response to required reporting for Federal Law compliance.
- Assessment of student conduct process, including running reports in database to track caseloads/sanctions. Provide statistical reports and summaries for various departments and agencies regarding types of conduct cases and outcomes.
- Serve on committees representing the Division of Student Affairs.
- Utilize student development theory and practice in the student conduct process while implementing national best practices in student conduct.
- Understand basic threat assessment protocols and interface with counseling resources, university police and other campus resources.
- Other duties as assigned.
- Serve on committees representing the Division of Student Affairs

**COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY**, Fort Collins, Colorado

**Assistant Director of Conflict Resolution & Student Conduct Services** 10/02 – 8/06

Responsible for adjudicating cases and determining appropriate sanctions for primarily residential students charged with alleged violations of university policies. This includes playing a critical role in advocating for student interests, encouraging student development, addressing community issues, intervening in negative behaviors, and collaborating on campus community civility and citizenship initiatives.

- **Responsibilities for all duties associated with the Assistant Director of Residence Life**
- Counsel and advise students on an individual or group basis regarding behavioral, academic, substance abuse and emotional issues. Apply effective sanctions that emphasize education, citizenship development and responsible behavior. Initiate referrals when appropriate to the proper helping/resource agencies on campus
- Coach individuals wanting support in handling conflict situations at the lowest level
- Assist with the coordination and facilitation of training and professional development for university hearing officers and Hall Directors serving in the role of residential hearing officers
- Provide outreach, intervention, or mediation to residential communities or other groups experiencing conflict
- Provide leadership and support for residence life staff in the development of student conduct philosophy consistent with university mission and values. Assist staff in applying philosophy to practice in their respective halls
- Manage the residence hall student conduct database
- Maintain Official University student discipline records following institutional guidelines

- Knowledge and understanding of the concepts of student development, substance abuse and addictions, student rights and responsibilities, due process, legal issues related to campus judicial programs, victim's rights and needs
- Assist with the implementation of an on-going assessment model to produce information on student conduct and behavioral trends for purposes of planning and proactive/preventative programs and education
- Coordinate conferences using the Restorative Justice process to enable students to repair the harm resulting from wrongdoing and conflict
- Participate as a member of the DAY IV program staffing team by presenting candidates for admission. DAY IV is a diversion program for students in need of treatment for substance abuse or addiction

**COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY**, Fort Collins, Colorado

**Assistant Director of Residence Life for Judicial Affairs** 7/01 - 9/02

Responsible for the implementation of the student conduct program within the residence hall system which consists of 11 buildings and 4500 students. This includes counseling, consulting, and advising students on the judicial process as well as possible hearing outcomes. Referrals are made when appropriate to the proper helping/resource agencies on and off campus.

- Assist with the development of a new office created in the Division of Student Affairs called The Office of Conflict Resolution & Student Conduct Services
- Supervise the judicial decisions of five Area/Complex Coordinators and fourteen Hall Directors.
- Conduct approximately 100 university level judicial hearings with outcomes ranging from general discipline probation to disciplinary dismissal
- Manage the judicial parental notification system within the residence halls. This is accomplished by contacting parents via phone or letters and informing them about the judicial process
- Create recommendations to parents on ways they can partner with the university to assist their son or daughter
- Train 5 Area/Complex Coordinators, 16 Hall Directors, and 125 Resident Assistants regarding student conduct, student's rights and responsibilities, emergency procedures, and University/Housing policy.
- Assist with the selection process of Area Coordinators, Hall Directors, and Resident Assistants
- Conduct performance evaluations on Area/Complex Coordinators and Hall Directors in the area of student conduct
- Responsible for interpreting the concepts of student development, student rights and responsibilities and University/Housing policy and procedure to residence life staff
- Advise two Student Judicial Boards and oversee the advertising, selection, training, and evaluation of the boards
- Build strong relationships necessary for each complex/hall's operation with support and service operations such as Food Services, Maintenance, Custodial, Campus Police, Counseling Center, Health Center, Student Relations, Alcohol Education, Advocacy Offices, and Fire & Life Safety.
- Represent the Office of Housing & Dining Services on University committees
- Participate in an on-call schedule with eight other residence life team members to provide support for Hall Directors in emergency situations
- Hire and train approximately sixteen graduate assistants for the Student Affairs in Higher Education program

**COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY**, Fort Collins, Colorado

**Assistant Director of Admissions** 12/00 - 6/01

Responsible for the coordination of the Black Issues Forum, a three-day event designed to bring together approximately 100 African American high school students from across the nation to discuss issues affecting the African American community. The forum provides students with a vehicle to enhance their leadership abilities and to develop written and oral communication skills. The forum is a very instrumental part of the recruitment plan to attract students of color to campus.

- Coordinate marketing efforts of program nationally
- Arrange planning committee to assist with reviewing participants' applications, contacting students, preparing agenda, and creating topics for participants to research
- Work with Housing, Conference Services, Event Planning, Morgan Library, and Student Recreation Center to coordinate room and board, travel arrangements, tours, research classes, and recreational events for the Forum
- Hire and supervise 40 faculty, staff and students for the Black Issues Forum

- Organize talent show consisting of Forum participants, staff, and faculty
- Coordinate Awards Banquet consisting of 250 participants and community members
- Serve as a member of the marketing, recruitment, and enrollment team. This includes creating new programs to assist with admissions yield and conducting general counseling for prospective students and families
- Recruitment coordinator for New Jersey, New York, Virginia, and Maryland
- Office liaison for various departments on campus such as the Center for Educational Access & Outreach, Advocacy Offices, and the College of Agricultural Sciences
- Serve as a member of the Supervisors Committee (Committee designed to manage employee conflicts and establish new office policies)
- Review a total of 500 applications to decide admittance to the university

**COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY, Fort Collins, Colorado**

**Admissions Counselor** 6/99 - 11/00

Responsible for the coordination of PRIDE Weekend. PRIDE (Program to Realize our Initiative to Diversify Enrollment) is a two day on-campus orientation and registration program for approximately 120 ethnically and racially diverse freshmen that have been admitted to Colorado State University. This two day program introduces students and their families to campus and the Fort Collins community.

- Manage a 30,000 dollar budget
- Coordinate placement exams in Math & English for participants
- Plan banquet for admitted students and family members
- Arrange guided tours with currently enrolled students and bus tours for parents of admitted students.
- Coordinate panel discussions with members from the Career Center, Recreation Sports, Health Center, Housing, and Campus Police Department

Responsible for the organization and management of 27 Non-Resident Orientation programs. All admitted new freshmen students and their parents within select top market areas are invited to attend a special two-and-a-half hour program in their area. Students and family members are given the opportunity to become more familiar with campus as well as begin the registration process. The overall budget for this program is in excess of 30,000 dollars.

- Recruit academic faculty and admissions representatives to form travel teams
- Organize and design training programs for new and veteran travel teams
- Conduct presentations to students and family members in New Jersey, Connecticut, Texas, Maryland, Illinois, California, and Massachusetts

**COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY, Fort Collins, Colorado**

**Admissions Counselor** 9/96 - 5/99

Responsible for the organization of the formal visitation program called Showcase Colorado State Visit Days. Visit Days provides an overview of academic programs and support services to prospective students and family members. Students experience first hand what college life is like by meeting with faculty and currently enrolled students.

- Responsible for managing 22 structured visitation programs with approximately 300 people in attendance per Visit Day
- Conduct presentations on Admissions requirements
- Coordinate presentations from various offices on campus (Housing, Financial Aid, and Academic Colleges)
- Coordinate panel discussions consisting of members from the Career Center, Recreation Sports, Health Center, Housing, and Campus Police Department
- Assist with hosting high school counselors from in and out of state to provide information on new academic programs, facilities, and scholarships available at Colorado State University

Manage the Student Ambassador volunteer program that consists of 120 currently enrolled students who provide campus tours, speak on panels, give presentations at high schools, and assist admissions staff at various college fairs.

- Supervise and train two student coordinators
- Conduct performance appraisals for student coordinators

- Recruit and train new ambassadors
- Develop and implement full day training for ambassadors regarding diversity issues
- Conduct over 200 presentations to community agencies, high schools, and prospective students and their family members on admissions requirements as well as workshops on how to prepare a college essay
- Represent the University at over 50 in-state and non-resident high school and community college recruitment fairs and other college planning events
- Serve as a member of the Admissions Application Review Committee. The committee makes decisions on applications that are borderline for admission or reflect any discrepancies
- Coordinate the Summer Admissions Institute that involves providing tours, guest speakers, and admissions presentations to high school counselors from across the country
- Assist with generating additional applications by conducting 15 Application Days in- state and in the North East. Application Days are designed for students who have a completed application. These students will receive an automatic decision. Students also have the opportunity to ask questions about their application or the university
- Responsible for the implementation of a visitation program called Discovery Days. Discovery Days is designed specifically for ethnically and racially diverse students
- Coordinate University resources and provide an organized and comprehensive program for prospective high school sophomores, juniors, and seniors
- Increase the awareness within the ethnically and racially diverse communities in Colorado of the opportunities at Colorado State University
- Increase the number of ethnically and racially diverse students applying and enrolling at Colorado State

**COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY, Fort Collins, Colorado**

**Adviser for the Upward Bound Program 9/94 - 9/96**

Responsible for helping students gain the academic skills necessary for success in education beyond high school. Students gained these skills through a six-week summer program designed to strengthen study skills and provide career exploration.

- Coordinate college visitation trips throughout Colorado with representatives from Admissions and Financial Aid Offices
- Teach a six-week summer course that included career awareness, goal setting, and decision making to eighty sophomore and junior high school students
- Present workshops on multiculturalism to participants and staff members
- Maintain records on student progress and parent meetings
- Plan and organize major events (Parents Night & Awards Banquet)
- Assist students complete college applications, financial aid, and ACT/SAT registration forms
- Recruit students through classroom and slide show presentations for the six-week summer program

**CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT:**

- Drug & Alcohol Task Force member - University Committee created to develop strategies to address issues students have relating to drugs and alcohol
- Gold Team member - University Committee created to implement strategies to retain students at the university
- Operations Management Team member -University Committee designed to assist Facilities, Food Services, and Custodial staff with the daily operations of residence life
- Advisor for Black Student Alliance - Student organization that promotes awareness of African American culture
- Chairman of the Social Committee for the Office of Admissions
- Equal Opportunity Council member - E.O.C. provides input for the university Diversity Plan, and reviews applications for Career Enhancement Grants
- Search Committee member for the Assistant Director of Admissions, Academic Coordinator, Adviser, Residence Life Complex Coordinator, Upward Bound & Talent Search Counselors, and Administrative Assistant positions
- Chairperson for the following search committees: Assistant Director of Conflict Resolution and the Assistant Director of Residence Life
- Serve as a member of the Minority Faculty/Staff Caucus

- Planning committee member for the Boettcher Scholar's Visit Day. A program designed for finalists for the Boettcher's award. Boettcher finalists have at least a 3.8 G.P.A.
- Planning committee member for the President's Visit Day. This program is an enrollment effort to attract high ability students to Colorado State University
- Assist the Office of Womans Programs and Studies by presenting on sexual assault prevention
- Recognized at the 2006 Celebrate Colorado State Luncheon as an "Honorable Mention" applicant for the Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship

**PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:**

Association for Student Judicial Affairs (2001-Present)

Association of College Personnel Administration (2001-Present)

Colorado Council (1996-2001)

Rocky Mountain Admissions and Counselor Region Organization (1996-2000)

National Association on Student Personnel Administration (1998-2000); (2003-2004)

Associated Student Programs in Region Eight (1994-1996)