

KERIN A. HILKER-BALKISSOON

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SUMMARY

Dynamic post-secondary administrator with 20+ years of demonstrated success in developing and implementing highly impactful educational and career pathways, strategic partnerships and data-driven interventions to promote college access, equity and inclusion, enrollment, student success, and completion across PK-12, higher education, non-profit, social service, and workforce sectors.

EDUCATION

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY, Fairfax, VA

Coursework in Progress toward Doctor of Philosophy in Conflict Analysis and Resolution

THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY, Baltimore, MD

Master of Science in Counseling

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS, Amherst, MA

Bachelor of Science in Psychology

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY, Fairfax, VA

Director of Educational and Career Pathways, 2018 – Present

Lead the strategy, development and execution of the following for the College of Science:

- Design and implement academic and career pathways through strategic partnerships with PK-12, community colleges non-profit, philanthropic and educational organizations
- Design and implement global enrollment pathways, to include study abroad and embedded programs through strategic partnerships with international post-secondary institutions, international development and philanthropic organizations
- Create and lead innovative K-20 STEM access, enrollment, and student success initiatives with emphasis on equity, inclusion, and post-baccalaureate career attainment
- Serve as College of Science lead on transfer pathways design efforts, to include NOVA/Mason ADVANCE and Transfer VA
- Build and maintain strategic partnerships with internal and external stakeholders to create and enhance K-20 educational and career pathways
- Design and implement career readiness programming
- Monitor compliance with SACS, FERPA and fiscal and administrative policy
- Develop and manage program and grant proposals and budgets, project plans, and MOUs with partner organizations

NORTHERN VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE (NOVA), Annandale, VA

Director of College and Career Pathways, 2013 – 2018

- Supported institutional and system efforts to enhance college and career pathways
- Provided leadership for award-winning college readiness and access initiatives supporting underserved populations with PK-16, non-profit, and community partners.
- Led NOVA initiatives supporting equity for diverse populations, including Pathway to the Baccalaureate, Dream.US, Elevating Parents in College (EPIC), Adult Career Pathways, and Great Expectations
- Leadership over unit of 40+ faculty and staff members
- Developed and managed program and grant budgets, and monitored compliance with SACS, FERPA and other fiscal and administrative policy
- Developed and implemented MOUs, grant proposals and reports, and monitored use and compliance of grant, institutional, and scholarship funding from external organizations
- Collaborated with PK-12, NOVA, and university administrators, faculty, students, parents and non-profit, social service, employer, WIB, and community stakeholders
- Leveraged over \$2 million in external grants and special project funding

Director, Pathway to the Baccalaureate Program, 2005 - Present

- Co-developed and implemented operational model and pilot of award-winning collective impact initiative, including development of innovative K-16 organizational structure
- Created co-curricular service model for comprehensive and alternative K-12 sites
- Expanded program from four to ten partners, and 300 to 8000+ students in seven years
- Program showcased by publications including New America Foundation, Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, and American Association of Community Colleges

Counselor/Disability Services Specialist, 2001 – 2005

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY, Washington, DC
Undergraduate Academic Advisor, Columbian College 1999 to 2001

AFFILIATIONS & COMMITTEES

- Aspen Institute ASCEND Network: Higher Education Task Force, NSF INCLUDES SCI-STEPS: Two-to-Four Year Juncture Team Lead, NSF S-STEM Rural and Diverse Scholars (RADSS): Co-PI; Member of AAAS - American Association for the Advancement of Science, Virginia Latino Higher Education Network, NASPA-Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education, National Academic Advising Association, NAFSA-Association of International Educators, Member/Faculty Advisor for SACNAS-Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science
- Recent Affiliations: National College Access Network: Rapid Response Team, Raise DC: Community Partnership for Post-Secondary Attainment Task Force, United Way Financial Empowerment Center Task Force, VCCS College Readiness Task Force (past chair); NOVA Committees: Achieving the Dream WSSN College Steering Committee, College Senate, College Staff Forum Council (elected chair), Ad Hoc Mental Health Advisory Committee (chair), Diversity and Inclusion Committee, Credit for Prior Learning Committee, NOVA/Jobs for the Future STEM Career Pathways Project Implementation Team, Perkins Advisory Group, DOL TAACCCT Task Force.

TRAINING AND CERTIFICATIONS

- VCCS Faculty and Administrative Leadership Academy
- Myers-Briggs Type Indicator Certification
- Title IX Investigator
- Online/Hybrid Course Instructor Certification

SKILLS

- Private and Federal Grants: development, implementation, evaluation and reporting
- Exceptional written communication skills
- Regular presenter at educational and policy convenings on variety of higher education topics: serving underrepresented populations, college readiness, access, and completion, collective impact partnerships, sector-based career pathways, social capital
- Strong background in research and program evaluation
- Fluent in Portuguese and intermediate conversational proficiency in Spanish

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

- Virginia Excellence in Education Award (Virginia Tech School of Education)
- Excelencia in Education Foundation Associate Level ;Example of Excelencia!
- NVCCEF Outstanding Service to the College Award
- Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance: Transition Matters
- Community College Futures Assembly Bellwether Award Finalist
- Northern Virginia Chamber Greater Washington Area Innovation Awards Finalist
- Aspen Institute Promising Practices Brief: Adult Career Pathways