

Elizabeth J. Lasher

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Highlights of Qualifications

- Over fifteen years of experience in higher education in the areas of teaching, counseling, advising, program development, student engagement, mentoring, and recruitment
 - Skilled at developing community partnerships with healthcare-related employers and alumni to establish opportunities for student internships and experiential learning opportunities
 - Demonstrated competence in building community and university partnerships
 - Adept in working within a technology-based environment, including delivering classroom instruction, online coursework, training webinars, and navigating social media
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Education

Ph.D., Counselor Education, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA, 05/08

M.S., Counseling, West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV, 12/90

B.S., Education in Rehabilitation, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Indiana, PA, 08/88

Professional Experience

Associate Teaching Professor/Internship Coordinator, The Pennsylvania State University, Department of Biobehavioral Health, College of Health and Human Development, University Park, PA (10/14-present)

- Responsible for overall coordination and implementation of BBH's summer internship program designed for upper-level students to gain practical experience in "real world" work settings
- Prepare students for careers and competitive graduate applications after graduation through career development coursework, activities and assignments
- Recruit and select students to participate in yearly internship cohort
- Develop and implement clear guidelines for site preceptors and student interns
- Assess student internship participation and required deliverables, and assign grades during the internship period
- Monitor students' performance to make suggestions for improvement and to ensure that they satisfy course requirements and objectives.
- Plan, evaluate, and revise curricula, course content, course materials, and methods of instruction
- Mentor and advise students on academic and career issues
- Adapt teaching methods and instructional materials to meet students' varying needs, interests, and current trends

Lead Counselor, The Pennsylvania State University, Academic Outreach/Advising and Learner Success, University Park, PA (07/07-10/14)

- Provided counseling and advising services to prospective and enrolled students focused on best-fit majors, career options, developing an educational plan to align with one's career goals, selecting internship or volunteer opportunities, and identifying experiences and resources to promote student success
- Skilled at developing community partnership with local employers and businesses aimed at understanding employment needs and desired skill sets
- Co-coordinated the Pennsylvania Regional Career Fair aimed at bringing together local employers, alumni, and community members
- Developed, coordinated, and delivered community programs on educational planning, career development, educational success, and student retention through workshops, webinars, print and web resources
- Supported student development by serving on student advisory committees, developing and delivering educationally relevant programs, facilitating a yearly leadership retreat and networking dinner, and serving as staff advisor for student organizations through Continuing Education
- Provided short-term counseling on issues related to return to school anxieties, managing multiple roles, transitioning from student to professional, increasing self-confidence, and managing stress
- Skilled in working collaboratively and building partnerships with other departments and academic colleges

Career Counselor, The Pennsylvania State University Alumni Association, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA (12/03-7/07)

- Provided career and counseling services to Penn State alumni
- Assisted with planning and implementation of special alumni events, open houses, networking events, and educational programs
- Facilitated networking opportunities for employers and prospective employees to facilitate alumni connections
- Provided short-term personal counseling regarding obstacles related to obtaining career goals

Instructor, Continuing Education, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA (2008-2014)

- Taught undergraduate courses that were part of Rehabilitation and Human Services (RHS) and Business (BA) majors
- Collaborated with colleagues around best fit teaching practices and current trends
- Advised students on challenges related to academic performance, educational objectives and career goals
- Supervised and mentored teaching assistants

Career Counselor (Intern), Penn State MBNA Career Services, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA (Fall 2003)

- Provided individual career counseling, testing, and advising to Penn State students
- Taught first year seminar on career exploration and career readiness

Academic Advisor, *The Pennsylvania State University, Department of Counselor Education, Counseling Psychology, and Rehabilitation Services, University Park, PA (08/00-05/02)*

- Advised undergraduate students regarding: course selection and scheduling, course substitutions, degree requirements and requirements for graduation
- Educated advisees on career opportunities, graduate school admissions, college adjustment, study habits, career planning, and personal concerns related to meeting educational goals and objectives

Rehabilitation Counselor, *HealthSouth-Harmarville Rehabilitation Hospital, Pittsburgh, PA (10/91-07/00)*

- Provided counseling around adjustment to disability issues to newly injured young adults and adults
 - Provided counseling related to career and educational issues with the goal of returning to college or gainful employment
 - Developed and maintained relationships with community referral sources such as the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR), Social Security Administration, colleges and universities, technical schools, high schools, and community resource groups
 - Remained actively and consistently involved in client advocacy, community outreach, and marketing
 - Recruited and supervised undergraduate and graduate interns
 - Developed professional working relationships with local employers to identify specific industry needs
 - Served as a liaison for both employers and employees to facilitate success related to return to work
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University Service and Memberships

Career Development Committee, Coordinator (2017-present)

- Department representative responsible to assist with career-related programming needs between BBH and other university colleagues

National Association of Colleges and Employers, Member (2010-present)

- Focus is on empowering professionals focused on the professional development and employment of college-educated individuals
- Committed to the values of collaboration, integrity, knowledge, leadership, and diversity and inclusion

Biobehavioral Newsletter Committee, Member (2017-2019)

- Assisted with identifying newsworthy stories and preliminary information to be given to Health and Human Development Diversity Committee, BBH Representative (2017-2018)

First Year Seminar Committee, Member (2016-present)

- Collaborate with HHD First Year Seminar faculty and academic advisors to address issues related to first year students

- Group is working on developing a consistent curriculum that will be taught across all HHD First Year Seminars

Biobehavioral Newsletter Committee, Coordinator (2016)

- Worked with HHD Marketing team to create annual BBH Newsletter
- Identified newsworthy topics for publication, initiated contact with faculty, staff, and students to collect preliminary information, collaborated with marketing team throughout publication process

Biobehavioral Health Internship Committee, Coordinator (2015-present)

- Coordinate application review and selection process to identify best fit students to participate in the BBH Internship Program

Global Health Minor Committee, Member (2015-present)

- Serve on committee to review applications and select best fit students to participate in the Global Health Minor

Omega Phi Alpha, Penn State Chapter, Faculty Advisor (2016-2017)

- Provided supervision and guidance to Omega Phi Alpha
- Participated in recruitment events, community service work groups, and yearly retreat

Biobehavioral Health Graduation Celebration Committee, Co-Chair (2016-2017)

- Assisted with planning and coordination of yearly graduation celebration held for graduates and family members

National and Regional Conference Presentations

- *Transitioning Adult Students to the Academy, Face-to-Face and Online*, Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL) International Conference, San Diego, CA, (November, 2013)
- *Helping Adults Build a Successful Educational Plan*, National College Transition Network Conference, Warwick, RI, (November, 2012)
- *Advising Adult Learners*, Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL) International Conference, Chicago, IL, (November, 2011)
 - Invited co-facilitator for day-long pre-conference workshop presented to university administrators, counselors, and academic advisors
- *Transitions: College and Career Preparation—A University and Community Partnership*, Association for Continuing Higher Education (ACHE) National Conference, Orlando, FL, (October, 2011)
- *Career and Life Planning*, CAEL, Philadelphia, PA, (March, 2011)
 - Invited co-facilitator for this national webinar offered to colleges and universities across the US
- *All Talk, No Action: How to Get Your Traction*, Women's Leadership Conference, Penn State University, (February, 2011). This workshop was developed with the goal to reach university women/employees who were considering or interested in returning back to school to gain additional credentials or a degree.

- *Academic Triage: Increasing Academic Success for Adult Learners*, CAEL International Conference, San Diego, CA, (November, 2010)
 - *Academic Triage: Increasing Academic Success for Rural Adult Learners*, ACHE National Conference, Albuquerque, NM, (October, 2010)
 - *Serving the Needs of Your Adult Learners in Rural Areas*, ACHE National Conference, Philadelphia, PA (2009)
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University Recognitions

Faculty Marshal, Department of Biobehavioral Health, May 2019

Faculty Marshal, Department of Biobehavioral Health, May 2015

Excellence in Advancing Student Success Award, University Professional and Continuing Education Association (UPCEA), March 2014, Transitions: College and Career Prep Program

Excellence in Creativity and Innovation, Penn State Academic Outreach, 2013 Transitions: College and Career Prep Program

Doors of Opportunity Award, Penn State Academic Outreach, 2012

Workshop Presentations

- *Diversity and Disability Awareness in the Workplace*, Penn State University Outreach, (2010)
 - Invited Presenter--Designed and facilitated a half-day diversity program that was delivered on two days to interested employees employed with Penn State Outreach for the purpose of promoting and supporting diversity within the workplace
- *Making the Most of Your Student Education*, Penn State Lewistown Learning Center, (2010)
- *Career Planning: Sooner Rather than Later*, Penn State Lewistown Learning Center, Transitions Program (2010)
- *Do What You Love, Love What You Do*, Penn State University, (2010)
 - A three-week workshop delivered to community members interested in career change or return to college
- *Beginning to Think About Your Career?* Big Brothers, Big Sisters, State College PA (2009)
- *Considering Careers in Science and Technology*, Penn State Lewistown Learning Center, Career Day for high school seniors, (2009)
- *Counseling Persons with Spinal Cord Injury*, Indiana University of PA, (2002, 2003, 2005).
- *Medical Aspects and Psychological Adjustment of Persons with Spinal Cord Injuries*, Invited speaker, IUP, Indiana, PA, (1997, 1998, 1999, 2000)
- *Helping Persons with Disabilities Return to Their Communities and Workplaces*, Duquesne University, (1998)
- *Returning Students with Spinal Cord Injuries Back to the Classroom*, Pennsylvania Occupational Therapy Annual Conference, Pittsburgh, PA (1995)
- *Counseling Students with Unrealistic Goals*, VA Transition Conference, (1997)