

Alexis A Gomez

Pronouns: She/her/hers

Dear Addy Elliott and Search Committee,

I am writing to express my sincere interest in the Manager of Student Life and Diversity position within the College of Agricultural Sciences (CAS) at Colorado State University (CSU). My agricultural roots and my passion for diversity/inclusion programming propels me in applying for this role. In reviewing my materials, you will find that my cumulative experience working with diverse students and designing and implementing diversity/inclusion initiatives gives me the skills and qualifications to be successful as Manager for Student Life and Diversity.

I have experience leading and mentoring diverse and multicultural students. As a College Coach, I worked as for a non-profit called College Possible. This organization is committed to narrowing the opportunity gap by assisting low-income students with college entry and graduation. I extensively designed and taught ACT preparatory courses and guided 29 students through their college application process. I individually met with students weekly to discuss academic progress, goal setting, career planning, and summer leadership involvement. Many of the students I worked with are from immigrant backgrounds and identify as students of color, low-income, and first-generation college students. Acknowledging my multicultural cohort, I created culturally inclusive and relevant course materials. I also lead and mentored diverse students at Front Range Community College. I supervised 9 Orientation Leaders, which included the oversight of recruitment, hiring, training and evaluations. On the team, there were students who were domestic and international, ages range from 19 to 50 and some live at home with their parents or have children of their own. From personal and professional experience, I am aware of issues and opportunities diverse students face and I actively create solutions and initiatives to enhance student success.

As an Inclusivity Projects Assistant, in the Department of Campus Recreation at CSU, I independently designed and implemented an educational series for 300+ student employees and 30+ professional staff on topics of equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI). The series was a new department-wide initiative intended to foster professional development and personal growth. I designed activities and questions that were interactive, experimental, fostered co-constructive learning, and engaged critically thinking. EDI topics can be difficult to understand and discuss; one of my strengths is communicating and presenting seemingly abstract concepts into relatable and applicable approaches to diverse audiences. I also allay fears by incorporating humor and fun into my programs. Students have stated that my content and activities were productive and transformative. I am able to design and implement diversity/inclusion initiatives by incorporating assessment/research and adapting to varying of audiences.

Simultaneously, I conducted and implemented department-wide assessments as Inclusivity Projects Assistant. I captured students' voices through interviewing, transcribing recordings, collecting and analyzing data, and writing recommendations to improve the Campus Recreation climate, particularly for students with marginalized socioeconomic status (SES) backgrounds. In addition, served on the Inclusivity Committee, in which we reviewed and developed departmental policies and procedures in order create inclusive environments. With my personal and professional experiences, I asked questions and incorporated suggestions within the committee about specific populations (international, undocumented, and LGBTQ+ students) that might not be fully represented in our study. I proposed to my team to expand our pool of participants, and we reached out to professionals to ensure that it happened. I would be a successful Manager of Student Life and Diversity because I have experience analyzing, compiling, using data to make programmatic recommendations and I efficiently work independently and as a team member to creatively solve problems.

At Front Range Community College, I assisted with managing New Student Orientation (NSO) Programs, a new campus-wide initiative to support transition, retention, and overall student success. I regularly communicated with campus stakeholders across many departments and functional areas, such as admissions and outreach, academic advising, and event services to make these programs succeed. In the middle of the academic year, The Assistant Director position was vacant, and I had to self-direct myself and carefully pay attention to timelines and policies and adapted to changing priorities. With less supervision, I made an extra effort in leading and supporting projects, initiatives, and goals in collaboration with different departments. I also frequently communicated with diverse families, guests, and students. Many were not familiar with the college onboarding process, which caused feelings of confusion, anxiety, and stress. I alleviated concerns by communicating program agendas, campus resources, and overall questions and concerns. These demonstrates that I can effectively communication with diverse stakeholders to support student success.

The experiences addressed above, only showcase a few examples of the impactful work that I do. I have been a part of departmental and campus-wide initiatives that improves inclusive climates, supports underrepresented students, and positively impacts retention and transition. I do this well by using data and research, as well as collaborating with university partners. I believe that my interests and my experiences will make me an ideal candidate for your department. If given the chance to become a part of your team, you will have someone who is committed to high-quality learning experiences and inclusive excellence.

Thank you for taking the time to review my application materials. I hope to have the opportunity to speak with you further about the Manager of Student Life and Diversity role.

With gratitude,

Alexis Gomez, M.S