

# Elias G. Quiñonez

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Letter of Interest, Manager of Student Life and Diversity

Dear Search Chair and Committee:

It is with enthusiasm that I submit my interest for the Manager of Student Life and Diversity within the Colorado State University. This position is both the culmination of my professional experience and skills as well as the embodiment of my values in working with students in higher education. My master's degree in Education Leadership with an emphasis in *Higher Education and Student Affair Leadership* through the University of Northern Colorado equipped me with foundational knowledge base of Policy and Procedures, Enrollment Management, and Financial Literacy in higher education. My ten years' experience in higher education, collated with my education, has been invested in my passion to work with under-represented students in higher education throughout Colorado.

In reviewing both the minimum and preferred qualifications for this position, I would like to share how my experience and qualifications align. Through Colorado Challenge, my responsibilities were to work one on one with students within Daniels Fund, Alliance, Colorado GEAR UP, and ASSET to focus on the areas of retention and completion by helping them overcome obstacles to their academic success. I work with each scholarship program to maintain strong relationships, meet the university's student success goals, and satisfy foundation contractual expectations. In every position I have held in higher education whether it be in Admission, Housing, or Advising, much of my success can be attributed to the relationships I have developed with campus departments, institutional resources, and individual staff in the university and community. I have collaborated with programs in high schools, local communities, universities, and state associations to present on issues under-represented students face in higher education. A recent example implementing a shared vision within a scholarship program has been in my work with ASSET students. In 2015, I initiated a program here on campus called "CSU DREAMzone." Its focus was to train administration, faculty, and staff on how to best support ASSET students. We developed a strong core team to provide the training for both four hour training and a one hour awareness presentation. We have presented the training to four major departments on campus; Office of Financial Aid, Student Diversity Programs and Services, Registrars, and the Office of Admission. Its success is hopefully one example of my vision, planning, designing, and implementing of a program benefiting our students and university, and in my ability to be independent, self-motivated, and creative.

Raised in West Texas as well as spending over 30 years in Weld County, I have come to understand the important of Agricultural both personally and professionally. Having the opportunity to promote the College of Agricultural Science and encourage diverse students populations in this field would be an honor.

I would appreciate the opportunity to share with the Search Committee other details of my qualities and skill-set that I believe make me a viable candidate for this position.

Thank you for the consideration.

Respectfully,

Elias G. Quiñonez