

Bio:

Christina works as a Senior Financial Aid Counselor at her alma mater, Kennesaw State University, in Kennesaw, Georgia. She obtained her Bachelor's degree in Psychology with a minor in statistics. She then went on to obtain her Master's of Science Degree in Conflict Management. During her graduate program, she learned vital skills that help foster better relationships between financial aid staff and the students and their families. Christina was born with a physical disability called Spina Bifida which causes her to use a wheelchair. As a student, she served on an advocacy organization that assisted students with disabilities with all aspects of the college experience. As a Senior Financial Aid Counselor, she loves to use her experiences to relate to students' difficulties and help encourage them towards their educational goals. She hopes to make a difference at not only in her school, but eventually nationwide.

Questions:

What changes in diversity have you seen since beginning your career in higher education?

I am still relatively new to the field (4 years in), so I have not yet been able to see a large span in change. I work at my alma mater, and we had a great representation of diversity when I was a student. One of my organization's leaders and another professor had physical disabilities which really fostered an inclusive environment. This encouraged me to move my career path towards higher education. My co-workers come from different ethnic backgrounds, religion, and even educational backgrounds. I believe everyone adds something to the table and it is always good to hear from multiple voices. I admit I have not seen a lot of physical disabilities represented directly in our field and I hope I can change that!

What is one interesting fact/ hidden talent about you?

One thing that people might not know about me is that I used to do ballet. Our local ballet studio offered a ballet class for people with physical disabilities. I had to learn the moves, wear the outfits, and performed at the recital. It's a little embarrassing now, but I think my parents still have the video! It was a cool experience and I gained so much more confidence in my abilities!

When you are not working, you can be found doing?

I am a bit of a nerd. I will sometimes relieve some stress by playing video games or some board games with friends! I can also be found on the couch binge-watching Netflix with my husband and three dogs. We have a Labradoodle, Doberman, and a Chiweenie so they keep me busy!