

Ever since I can remember, I have always had a passion working with and serving others. I always knew I wanted a career where I did my small part to help make the lives of others better. My journey after earning my college degree has included just that; working and supporting others. Right out of college, I was a substitute teacher for a short stint of time while looking for a full-time position. I have always grown up appreciating my teachers knowing they were the champions in my success, but it was that position that really made me appreciate all they dealt with on a day to day basis within their very important roles.

A few short months later, I was then hired on at Big Brothers Big Sisters in Great Falls, MT. When I reflect back on my role and experience with the program, I am constantly reminded how fortunate I am to have both my parents in my life, a house to call my home, and a support system that is by my side every step of the way. These kids in Big Brothers Big Sisters were not as fortunate. They did not have those role models in their lives teaching them the importance of an education; what it means to be successful; or what a healthy family dynamic looked like. I thoroughly enjoyed playing that small piece in their lives that provided them with some of these opportunities they were lacking through mentorship and leading by example. I wanted to push them so they too could have hopes and dreams to strive for.

Education has always been very important to me and instilled in me as a young child. I recognized the need to do my best and excel in all that I do. I graduated in 2010 with my bachelor's degree and I am now continuing on my education at the University of Providence working towards my Master of Science in Organizational Leadership. I recognize the fact that I would not be who I am or where I am today had it not been for my college career. I have so many opportunities I would have never had, had I not applied myself and earned a bachelor's degree. Not only did I grow academically, but I grew as a whole person through my teachings and courses I took, and continue to take.

I wanted to work in higher education to help others prove to themselves that if they put the time and effort into their studies, they too would be destined to greatness! I have been with the university since 2017 and hands down enjoy working with the students most. I enjoy hearing about their aspirations and watching them live out their dreams. Not only do I enjoy working with students, I enjoy implementing new processes and asking the question "why". I enjoy pushing myself to learn more and continue to do better. I know I have only been in my role in admissions for a short time, but I believe I could bring great perspective to the table as a Board member. Not only do I want to contribute to the group, but I want to also learn from others and continue to grow in my role.

Being part of the MPSEOC Executive Board, I feel this would be another great opportunity for me to develop professionally. I am passionate about higher education and would greatly enjoy surrounding myself with others with the same mindset. I feel so many individuals in higher education roles often put the importance of serving others above self, which is a motto I have lived for throughout my career thus far. The work in which I have done and continue to do closely aligns with the vision of MPSEOC, *Changing the world by connecting, educating and empowering individuals through higher educational opportunities*. Growing up in Great Falls and choosing to move back home once I graduated with my bachelor's degree, it excites me to provide students within our own backyards a quality education right here in Montana.

I greatly appreciate your consideration through this application process. I hope I too can become the next Board member of MPSEOC.

Sincerely,

Katelyn Farrington