

**College of Natural Science  
Coordinator of Student Success  
Continuing Appointment Statement**

The most impactful advising moment that has resonated with me throughout my life was during my undergraduate years when I met an advisor in the Office of Supportive Services (OSS) that believed in me when I did not see a future at this institution for myself. When I returned to graduate school for my Masters in Clinical Social Work I had the opportunity to be a graduate assistant for OSS. A career in higher education had never crossed my mind. I quickly learned that I could incorporate my love of social work into advising. Soon after I graduated, I was hired as a Specialist at OSS and was able to continue to give back to students at Michigan State University in a model of non-traditional advising.

I continued working in OSS for eight years and in April of 2014 had the opportunity to work for the College of Natural Science (CNS) as the Coordinator of Student Success. I have enjoyed the opportunity to work with students on probation and assist them with returning to good academic standing. In my position, I coordinate the STAR (Success Training for Academic Recovery) program. The program uses a case management approach by having students attend an initial probation conference meeting, follow-up advising appointments, two workshops, meetings with their professors and major advisor. The program has proven to be successful. My colleagues and I in the colleges of Arts and Letters, Social Science and Education have been able to present the STAR program and data internally at MSU, locally in the state of Michigan and nationally. We have had several institutions in Michigan contact us in the hopes to replicate the program.

My advising philosophy stems from the strength-based approach. I believe in having students share their strengths, believe in themselves and set personal and academic goals. I believe in creating an inclusive environment and my goal is that all students feel they are in a

safe and supportive environment. I encourage students to challenge themselves and to strive for opportunities they have never thought possible.

I enjoy being a representative of the Latino community and have been able to interact and support many Latino students on campus over the years. During the fall 2014 semester my colleagues in Migrant Student Services and the Neighborhood Student Success Collaborative and I started an initiative to address the graduation and retention rates of Latina's on campus. *Mujer a Mujer* (Woman to Woman) is a group that meets bi-weekly in South Neighborhood. We host workshops on topics of interest to the students and provide a safe environment for students that identify with being Latina. My hope is to continue student success initiatives related to Latino students as well.

I have been admitted into the HALE Ph.D. program this fall. As a first generation student it is extremely important and a personal goal for me to finish my education. I want to be a role model not only to my children, but to Latino's, women and others who aspire to attend institutions of higher education. I look forward to engaging in research and reading literature that will assist with my growth as the Coordinator of Student Success.

My plans for the future are to become an administrator. I hope to be a Director and eventually an Assistant Dean of Advising/Student Success and Retention Initiatives. I have always enjoyed working with students and developing a plan for graduation and their career paths. I hope to develop and work with students and institutions on a more proactive approach to student success for the future to shorten time to degree and the financial burdens, especially for our first generation students and students of color.

I am grateful for the opportunity to have a rewarding career in the profession of advising. I work with some of the best students we have at MSU. I recognize the privilege to walk on to

this campus every day and interact with some of the most intelligent and thoughtful students and colleagues in the higher education field. It is a pleasure to interact with different colleagues on campus and form partnerships and collaborations to assist students with academic success. Michigan State and the College of Natural Science have provided me with the opportunity for continued professional development and I look forward to continuing persistence and retention efforts.