A Path To Passion

By: Victoria Mitchell, Hixson-Lied Success Scholar

David Jackson is the Director of Student-Athlete Academic Services (SAAS), located in the Academic Success Center (ASC) at UNLV. In this position, he assists the Assistant Athletic Director with compliance and academic services, and provides support and advisement for student-athletes who play for UNLV’s Baseball team as well as our very own Runnin’ Rebels. He just finished his eleventh year here at UNLV but he did not earn this prestigious position without hard work and dedication. Mr. Jackson received his bachelor’s degree in Business Administration with a focus on Information Systems in 2001 from Texas Tech University. During his time as an undergraduate student, Mr. Jackson worked in the Athletic Department as a student worker in the student-athlete computer lab. Shortly afterward, he started work on his Masters of Education in Higher Education. As a graduate student, Mr. Jackson was able to get a Graduate Assistantship position in the Athletic Department at Texas Tech University where he helped with student-athlete academic support and compliance including evaluation of student transcripts and ensuring students met eligibility requirements. In this position, he learned a great deal about student-athletes and started to realize how much he enjoyed working with this particular group of students. Mr. 

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Jackson finished his graduate work and received his master’s degree in 2002.

As an athletic advisor, Mr. Jackson goes above and beyond to ensure that his student-athletes succeed. Often times, he goes to his students rather than having them come to him. He works with them at multiple locations and holds weekly meetings, as well as other meetings when necessary. He also helps them find helpful resources, such as tutors, and oversees the completion of their study hall hours to make sure they stay on track. Mr. Jackson finds it exciting to see student-athletes compete both on and off the field. He explains that “it is a rewarding experience to be a part of [student-athletes’] journey through college.” Unlike most UNLV SAAS advisors, Mr. Jackson was not an athlete during his college career. It was only after he began his career as an athletic advisor that he started running marathons. When Mr. Jackson accepted a position here at UNLV, he started out as an athletic academic advisor. He worked his way up to become an Eligibility Coordinator, then the Associate Director, before ultimately becoming the Director of Advising for SAAS. With each new title, Mr. Jackson is still able to advise students, which is one of his favorite things about his career. Mr. Jackson enjoys his job and loves coming to work each day. He is always happy to lend a helping hand, just like a true Rebel.

Expect Success: Tutoring & S. I.

By: Brendon Herzig, Hixson-Lied Success Scholar

The University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) offers many helpful resources to its students, one of which is tutoring services, specifically provided by the Academic Success Center (ASC). The ASC offers two different methods of tutoring: drop-in and Supplemental Instruction.

Drop-in tutoring is a valuable resource available for students who have a valid RebelCard and are currently enrolled in the class for which they need tutoring. Studies show that students who attended the drop-in lab received a higher grade in their class after eight or more visits. The Academic Success Center offers drop-in tutoring at two locations on campus. The main Tutoring Center is located inside the Lied Library on the second floor. At this location, tutoring covers a wide variety of subjects ranging from Math and Biology to Spanish. A full list of classes and the schedules for this location are available at http://facebook.com/unlv.tutoring. Through cooperation with the College of Engineering, the ASC also offers tutoring specifically for engineering courses in the Thomas T. Beam Engineering Complex. The schedule for this location is available at http://facebook.com/unlv.coetutoring.

Another service provided to students is known as Supplemental Instruction, or “SI,” which is a program in which SI leaders are assigned to specific courses and then hold small group study sessions multiple times a week covering that week’s material with participating students. This is a helpful resource for students as they can utilize this to increase their understanding of the week’s material through immediate supplemental review with a tutor and other classmates. This method allows SI leaders to work directly with other faculty members around campus and provide assistance to students so that they gain a clearer understanding of concepts from that particular class. Professors notify students if their class section has been partnered with a Supplemental Instructor during the first week
Discover Yourself, Discover Your Career

By: Kelly Lutzker, Hixson-Lied Success Scholar

Among the many services that are provided to UNLV students, Career Services is one of the most important. Their mission is to educate, prepare, and assist students of all types as they get ready for the working world by helping them with career development and job searching. Essentially, their job is to help you make a successful transition from college to the “real world.”

One of the things provided by Career Services are career assessment tests. They utilize FOCUS 2 (a computerized assessment of your interests, abilities, and values), the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (designed to evaluate your individual personality and how you approach situations), and the Strong Interest Inventory (an in-depth assessment of your interests) in order to allow students discover who they are and what they like so that they can match a potential career that fits them.

Career Services also offers a variety of workshops like resume building and mock interviews so you can practice for the real thing. Crafting a resume can be difficult but they will guide you if you are unsure of what is relevant enough to include in your resume. Interviews can also be intimidating, but the more you practice, the easier it gets. Career counselors can help you practice this and critique you when necessary. If you are unsure of a major, they have the “How to Choose a Major Workshop” where you can participate in assessment exercises to determine what it is you want to pursue. Furthermore, they provide internship and job searching assistance, for those who may have difficulties in finding a job. They even have a professionalism workshop that shows you how to dress properly in the workplace. They also provide preparation for graduate school for those students who would like to pursue a graduate degree beyond their bachelor’s. To top it all off, they hold career fairs and employer network events to help connect you with potential employers and establish connections that may be needed when school is over.

Interested in any of the services just described? Call Career Services at (702) 895-3495 to set up an appointment with a career counselor. Meeting with one of these knowledgeable counselors will benefit you in the long run, especially if you are undecided about anything regarding your future career plan. You will get assistance in selecting a career, connecting your major to a job, and transitioning to the world of work. They will help you create a solid action plan and find the right path for you based on your interests, skills, values, and personality.
Spring Forward with Service Learning

By: Kayla Fratianne, Hixson-Lied Success Scholar

In order to become a well-rounded, knowledgeable, and successful student, it is essential to become involved beyond classroom. An excellent way to become involved is to participate in service learning projects. The Office of Civic Engagement and Diversity (OCED), located on the third floor of the Student Union in room 316, offers and organizes over 200 different student registered organizations allowing students at UNLV with a wide range of service learning projects to choose from. OCED also provides students with easy access to sign up for and review service learning events. First, a student needs to simply log into their MyUNLV account, click on the UNLV Involvement Center tab, then click on the sign-up link in the right hand corner. Once as student has signed up within the UNLV Involvement Center, the home page displays many upcoming events for students. For example, Alternative Break, DASH, and the Rebel Events Board can all be accessed by students.

OCED also coordinates the Alternatives Services during Spring Break and the spring semester. The trips range from $25.00 to $200.00 and occur both during the week and weekends to fit all of our busy schedules. For example, there is a two-day trip to the Organic Farm from April 24th to April 26th for $50.00. There is also a three-day trip to Catalina Island from May 27th to May 30th for $200.00. The trips that are sponsored and funded by OCED give students a chance to gain valuable experience by participating in community activities while also teaching them about current issues within our society. To participate in a student-led trip, students need to fill out an application and attend pre-trip meetings in order to ensure that all travelers get the chance to get to know one another and are informed of the logistics pertaining to the trip. Contact the Office of Civic Engagement and Diversity Office at (702) 895-5624 for applications!

Tips for Taking Summer Classes

- Meet with an Academic Advisor. They can help you decide which class[es] would be beneficial for you to take over the Summer Term. Summer Term catalogs are available at the Lied Library.
- Plan a Summer Term schedule. You should take into account work and family commitments.
- Sign up early! The earlier you sign up for Summer Term, the better chance you have for getting into the class[es] you want.
- Review Summer Term policies. The academic and financial policies for Summer Term classes are very different from the policies that apply to the Fall and Spring semesters. Visit http://summerterm.unlv.edu for more information.
- Always attend class. This is crucial since missing three meetings in a Summer class is equivalent to missing two weeks in a regular semester.
- Be sure to stay caught up with your class work. Most Summer Term classes meet five days a week.

*All photos used are original or can be found at unlv.edu unless otherwise noted.*