



WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

# COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES

## College Student Personnel Program

“Thank you for helping me seize the opportunities.”

October 2010

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Dear FIELD(14)IFNOTBLANK(15) and FIELD(15)ENDIF :

Hi!

My name is Ally Randolph, and I am a graduate student in the College Student Personnel program at Western Illinois University. When I began my graduate school search two years ago, I knew I wanted to attend a mid-sized, public institution that would provide me with the theoretical knowledge and practical skills to prepare me for a career in student affairs. Upon my arrival at Western, I knew immediately that my needs would be met and that I would also be given the opportunity to work with some of the country's most accomplished professors and student affairs professionals. I remember specifically a speech given by Dr. Garry Johnson, Vice President for Student Services, in which he demonstrated strong pride for Western and, more specifically, for the College Student Personnel program.

What I truly appreciate about Western is that I have ample opportunity to gain experience in multiple areas of student affairs. Through my assistantship, practicum experiences, and other extracurricular activities, I have been able to gain the knowledge of multiple dimensions of student affairs and to work with a wide variety of students. Along with the practical experiences, my educational experience is perfectly balanced with a strong theoretical course load. In my theory, group dynamics, and counseling courses, I have gained the necessary knowledge needed to meet the needs of the students I with whom I work.

As the graduate advisor to the University Union Board, I am able to experience many cultural, educational, and social events. Aside from that, my involvement with the Western Illinois Student Personnel Association (WISPA) has provided me with opportunities to network with other students and alumni and to develop as a professional. WISPA provides professional development, but it also provides events that allow us to have a great time and explore Macomb.

Looking ahead, I believe that my Western Illinois University education has empowered me to accomplish my dreams. I hope to acquire a job working in student activities or new student programs. I also hope to become more involved in the various professional student affairs associations so that I can be a voice for student affairs professionals.

As a recipient of the Dr. Nell Glynn Koester Memorial Scholarship, I have been able to attend professional conferences, purchase books, and concentrate on my personal and professional development. It is only because of donors like you that I am afforded these opportunities, and I am forever grateful. Your gift allows students like me to make the most of our graduate school experience by seizing opportunities that would otherwise have not been provided to us. Thank you so much!

Sincerely,

Allyson N. Randolph

ALLYSON RANDOLPH, a graduate student from St. Louis, Missouri, looks forward to a career as a Director of Student Activities in higher education. Her Western experience includes serving as the Graduate Advisor in the Office of Student Activities, as the Practicum Advisor for the Homecoming Committee, and as a volunteer with the Special Olympics.

*Allyson's dreams are in reach thanks to her hard work and your gifts in support of the College Student Personnel Program.*

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### COLLEGE STUDENT PERSONNEL PROGRAM – WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

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