

Search Committee

University of Connecticut | Undergraduate Student Success|

Re: Undergraduate Student Success Director for Student Activities Vacancy (Search #: 498927)

Dear Members of the Search Committee,

I am writing to express my interest in the Undergraduate Student Success Director for Student Activities position at the University of Connecticut. It has been an honor to serve as Interim Director during this time of transition, and I am excited by the opportunity to continue leading a department that plays a vital role in advancing UConn's mission. As a two-time alumna with over a decade of service to the University, my commitment to UConn is both personal and deeply rooted in its values.

In my current role, I oversee a department of more than 40 professional staff and 100+ student employees, managing a \$5.7 million operating budget and multiple foundation accounts across six functional areas. I have implemented data-informed strategies, expanded cross-campus leadership programming, and worked with unit managers to build a cohesive vision that supports both undergraduate and graduate students. These experiences have reinforced a core belief that student leadership is a lever for equity, belonging, and institutional transformation.

My leadership is grounded in transparency, collaboration, and building systems that foster innovation and inclusion. I also lead with vision, empathy, and accountability—principles I've carried across every role. I have partnered with key divisions and departments across all campuses—including Student Success, Student Life and Enrollment, the Dean of Students Office, CARE, and Athletics—to enhance student development, engagement, and inclusive support for historically marginalized communities.

Early in my career, I spent three years in UConn's Athletics Compliance Office supporting operations tied to recruitment, housing, scholarships, and policy development. I also served as an assistant coach for UConn Women's Track & Field—experiences that sharpened my commitment to accountability, high performance, and holistic support. Together, they provided me with foundational insight into the interconnected systems that shape student success—insight I continue to apply in my current leadership.

Beyond my work at UConn, I bring a unique lens from my experience as an executive operator managing a restaurant for over seven years. Leading a fast-paced, high-volume team required strategic operations management, fiscal accountability, hiring and training, and delivering consistent service under pressure—skills that continue to inform my approach as a campus leader. I also co-direct Lifeline, a Bronx-based faith initiative that serves over 100 families weekly with groceries, clothing, and holistic care. In addition, I've led large-scale, citywide homeless outreach efforts for more than a decade—organizing drives, raising funds, and coordinating direct support.

As a former professional track and field athlete, I also carry a lifelong commitment to discipline, resilience, and team performance. I continue to share that passion by running an eight-week summer speed camp for high school students, helping young athletes grow in confidence, work ethic, and leadership—on and off the field.

Whether I'm designing campus-wide leadership initiatives, mentoring individual students, or supporting colleagues through departmental change, I bring the same level of energy, care, and commitment. Looking ahead, I am eager to deepen cross-campus partnerships, grow sustainable leadership pipelines, and elevate student engagement strategies that foster belonging, boost retention, and drive meaningful student success.

I am ready to build on the momentum we've created and continue driving initiatives that empower students, support staff, and advance UConn's mission. I would be honored to continue this work in a permanent leadership capacity.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration. Please feel free to contact me at

██ I look forward to the opportunity to further discuss how my experience, leadership philosophy, and holistic approach can support the continued success of UConn's students and the Department of Student Activities.

Sincerely,

Trisha Hawthorne-Noble