

KRYSTA FOSTER

krysta.foster.consulting@gmail.com | 810.358.8560 | <https://www.linkedin.com/in/krystafoster/>

EXPERIENCE

Michigan State University | Lyman Briggs College

July 2023 – Present

Associate Director—Career Services

- Create and assess curriculum focused on career exploration and skill development for undergraduate students, collaborating with faculty to incorporate career education into core science classes, first year seminars, and internship/field experience seminars, reaching 1,000+ students each year
- Co-lead research projects which contribute to a better understanding of undergraduate learning and career skill development, aiming to develop new strategies for increasing access to career resources and improving sense of belonging, particularly for students from marginalized populations
- Hire, train, and supervise a team of staff including, a full-time Assistant Director, 2 undergraduate career peer(s), and 5 graduate practicum student(s)
- Secure funds to support curriculum implementation work through grants and donor engagement, totaling ~\$25,000 from organizations including the American Association of Colleges & Universities, and The Lumina Foundation
- Present, and support undergraduate and graduate research assistants in presenting, research findings at campus-wide and national conferences, and in scholarly journals
- Develop new, and build upon existing, programming to expand reach and engagement in career education outside of the classroom, collaborating with the alumni and development team to provide support for LBC's 2,200+ undergraduate students by engaging alumni and donors through meaningful stewardship
- Consult with campus partners and professionals across the country about scaling and replicating their career curriculum initiatives offering inclusive coaching and programming initiatives, developing professional networks and social capital while supporting increased access to career resources for students nationwide
- Provide one-on-one coaching for students on a variety of career topics including career exploration, document development, and professional/graduate school prep, maintaining a pulse on the needs of undergraduate students

Leland

July 2024 – Present

Graduate & Professional School Coach

- Support applicants in their pursuit of graduate and professional school, helping to develop school lists and application strategy, and reviewing personal statements and professional documents to optimize each applicant's opportunities
- Consult with graduate and professional school hopefuls to highlight their skillsets and demonstrate alignment with program goals and mission, providing guidance that allows them to effectively communicate their skills, interests, and values in personal statements, essays, and other professional documentation
- Collaborate with other coaches and the central administration team at Leland to host events, provide product feedback, and support ongoing initiatives to increase access to quality coaching for applicants worldwide

Michigan State University | Career Services Network

February 2020 – July 2023

Assistant Director – Lyman Briggs College

- Provided 500+ one-on-one career advising appointments each academic year for STEM and pre-med students, providing coaching on topics including but not limited to professional documents, interview preparation, graduate and professional school applications and career exploration
- Designed career education curriculum initiatives and collaborates with college faculty to embed this content into Lyman Briggs College's core curriculum, providing more equitable access to career resources for all students, especially those from marginalized backgrounds
- Created and executed alumni mentorship programs in collaboration with development and alumni relations colleagues, improving alumni and student engagement across the college
- Co-led a five-person research team in conjunction with a collegiate faculty member to better understand how incorporating career education into the core science curriculum impacts students' sense of self-efficacy, STEM identity, and sense of belonging, contributing to improved retention outcomes
- Developed presentations, videos, and social/printable media based around career topics, engaging students in the career education process in a multitude of physical and digital spaces

- Trained, mentored, and supervised a team of undergraduate and graduate student employees who support career events, programs, and advising initiatives
- Served as the primary administrator for Lyman Briggs College's PeopleGrove mentoring platform, Briggs Connect, helping students across the college connect with alumni and peer mentors

Michigan State University | College of Education

January – May 2021

EAD 315 Instructor

- Developed course syllabus for the EAD 315 course in the College of Education, a course centered around leadership development and theories
- Planned and executed lesson plans for each class period including content recaps, engaging activities centered around course objectives and discussion facilitation
- Provided constructive feedback and insights by grading students' assignments throughout the course

Lawrence Technological University | University Advancement

December 2016 – January 2020

Director of Alumni Relations

- Advised and guided the Alumni Association Board of Directors in planning programming and promoting services for alumni members
- Coordinated events and programs for alumni of the institution, ranging from academic, life-long learning programs to social events
- Managed and maintained a database of alumni and their records
- Developed ideas for and executed the publication of alumni stories to be featured in publications including but not limited to the alumni magazine, website and social media platforms
- Managed and developed content for the alumni website and social media platforms

Michigan State University | Department of Student Life

June 2015 – December 2016

Assistant Director, Student Government Advising

- Advised the Associated Students of Michigan State University (ASMSU) undergraduate student government for Michigan State University, including providing leadership training, guidance, and programming assistance for its members
- Coordinated the contracting process for ASMSU, Residence Halls Association (RHA), Council of Racial & Ethnic Students (CORES), Council of Progressive Students (COPS), and other groups
- Supervised one professional staff member and one Graduate Assistant
- Supported the student conduct process by advising the University Student Appeals Board
- Planned and executed major campus events including the Off-Campus Housing Fair, Meijer Moonlight Madness
- Assisted in coordinating departmental retreats and professional development opportunities in order to encourage growth and development within the Department of Student Life

EDUCATION

Western Michigan University

May 2015

Master of Arts, Educational Leadership - Concentration in Higher Education and Student Affairs

Lawrence Technological University

May 2012

Bachelor of Science, Business Management

Minor in Technical and Professional Communication

PRESENTATIONS & PANELS

AAC&U Curriculum to Career Alumni Mentor, May 2026

Consult with institutional teams to help develop their curricular initiatives based on our experience with similar models.

“The In Real Life Curriculum: Purpose-Driven Reflection as a High-Impact Practice in STEM Classrooms,” 2026 Innovative Teaching & Learning Conference. (Virtual). Presenter. March 2026.

“Embedding education-to-career guidance into the core curriculum and student experience,” *American Association of Colleges & Universities— Institute on Connecting the Undergraduate Experience. (Virtual)*. Panelist. June 2025.

“Finding Your True North: A purpose-driven approach to developing students’ STEM career self-efficacy, identity and sense of belonging,” *Career Leadership Collective (New Orleans, LA)*. Presenter. April 2025.

“Finding Your True North: A purpose-driven approach to developing students’ STEM career self-efficacy, identity and sense of belonging,” *American Association of Colleges & Universities—Conference on Learning and Student Success (San Juan, PR)*. Presenter. April 2025.

“Linking Curriculum to Career: Practical Strategies for Exploring Curricular Innovation for Career-Readiness,” *American Association of Colleges & Universities—Conference on Learning and Student Success (San Juan, PR)*. Facilitator & Panelist. April 2025.

“Better Together: Supporting Student Success Through Alumni Engagement,” *Midwest ACE (Milwaukee, WI)*. Presenter. November 2023.

“Better Together: Supporting Student Success Through Alumni Engagement,” *Council for Advancement and Support of Education (Seattle, WA)*. Presenter. June 2023.

PUBLICATIONS

Foster K, Lambert L, Solomon R, Perkins H, Masani S. 2025. “In real life: a curriculum for developing students’ self-efficacy and outcome expectations through purpose-driven career exploration and planning within a core STEM course”. *Journal of Microbiology & Biology Education*. 26:e00137-24. <https://doi.org/10.1128/jmbe.00137-24>

ACHIEVEMENTS

Excellence Award in Interdisciplinary Scholarship Phi Kappa Phi	April 2026
Top 50 Coaches of 2025 Leland	December 2025
Top 50 Coaches of 2024 Leland	December 2024
Outstanding New Career Services Professional Hire BigTen+	July 2023