



Alumna traces higher education career success to Concordia-Chicago's Accelerated Degree Program and personal passion for helping students



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I started the Accelerated Degree Program (ADP) at Concordia-Chicago in August of 2007 as a non-traditional, first generation student. It took me about nine years to obtain an associate's degree, but this time around, I felt that I was in a better place and I meant business!

The convenient evening classes allowed me to continue working full-time and the cohort-based program enabled me to build relationships with my classmates.

I attribute a lot of my success to the support and guidance provided by the program instructors—they were always willing and ready to assist. Overall, the program prepared me with the skills I needed to be successful within my career

in higher education, but it also provided me with the tools to be successful in grad school.

As a Concordia-Chicago alumna (class of '09), I am excited to have been hired by the university as the director of multicultural and first-generation student engagement.

Because I was a first-generation and low-income student, I know how important it is to feel represented and included on a college campus. It is equally important to feel that there are people on campus that want to help. I feel that my personal experience, along with the professional experience that I have acquired give me the necessary tools to be able to support and guide students to achieve their personal, educational and career goals.

My student experience at Concordia-Chicago was great. I remember everyone being genuinely friendly and helpful. I hope to be able pay it forward and make a difference in someone's life, whether a student, staff or faculty member.

Applications for the Spring 2018 term are currently being accepted. Classes begin January 8, 2018.