

Richard Zomer

Contact

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3908 Kingsway Ct SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49508

Skills

Administration
Collaboration
Communication/public speaking
Fundraising
Leadership
Strategic Planning
Supervision/mentoring/coaching

Education

Western Michigan University

Kalamazoo, MI

PhD Educational Leadership

May 2006

Dissertation: The Persistence of At-Risk College
Students into Their 8th Semester at a
Private Christian College

Kent State University

Kent, OH

Master of Arts

Higher Education Leadership

June 1996

Calvin University

Grand Rapids, MI

Bachelor of Arts

Economics

May 1991

Professional Summary

30 years of professional experience within Christian non-profit, denominational and higher education contexts. A proven history of leadership, administration, advancement and management work focused on institutional mission and shared ministry goals.

Professional Timeline

ThereforeGo Ministries, Executive Director

Grand Rapids, MI February 2018 – present

Reformed Church in America, Director of Next Generation Engagement

Grand Rapids, MI January 2016 – February 2018

Calvin University, Director of Enrollment Initiatives and Visits, Director of Event Services

Grand Rapids, MI July 2010 – January 2016

Geneva College, Associate Professor of Higher Education

Beaver Falls, PA August 2008 – July 2010

Calvin University, Associate Dean of Residence Life

Grand Rapids, MI September 1998 – July 2008

Cornerstone University, Director of Student Activities

Grand Rapids, MI August 1996 – August 1998

Malone University, Residence Hall Director

Canton, OH August 1993 – July 1996

Geneva College, Residence Hall Director

Beaver Falls, PA August 1991 – July 1993

Professional Experience

ThereforeGo Ministries, Grand Rapids, MI; Executive Director

January 2018 to present

- create, execute and evaluate mission experiences for middle and high school students in collaboration with churches in the United States and Canada
- develop and lead church based cohorts focused on mentoring emerging adults as a strategy for increasing engagement with their local congregation
- serve as chief development officer to ensure annual fundraising goals are met
- provide supervision and leadership to professional staff to accomplish annual ministry goals
- develop new ministry partners through speaking, writing and other engagement strategies
- serve as management team leader for Dynamic Youth Ministries

Reformed Church in America, Grand Rapids, MI; Director of Next Generation Engagement

January 2016 to January 2018

- developed and implemented emerging adult connection events and learning communities in collaboration with churches in the United States and Canada
- served as next generation advocate and strategist for denominational ministry teams
- designed and directed leadership development program for denominational staff

Calvin University, Grand Rapids, MI; Director of Enrollment Initiatives and Visits, Director of Event Services

July 2010 to January 2016

- chaired Committee on Admissions
- designed, implemented and evaluated new yield initiatives to increase conversion rates
- led Pre-College staff in meeting divisional goals for enrollment in college readiness programs with an emphasis on reaching students from under-represented populations
- communicated institutional mission through small and large group presentations
- developed partnerships with community organizations and educational institutions to increase Calvin University's visibility within the West Michigan community
- directed the summer conference program and managed department budgets to increase operational revenue and grow prospective student applicant pool
- represented the Enrollment Management Division on multiple university committees

Geneva College, Beaver Falls, PA; Associate Professor of Higher Education

August 2008 to June 2010

- taught graduate level courses in college student culture, the history of higher education and research methods
- advised graduate students in course selection
- worked collaboratively with graduate students and colleagues on writing projects
- served on campus committees and as a member of the Faculty Senate

Calvin University, Grand Rapids, MI; Associate Dean of Residence Life

September 1998 to July 2008

- supervised student and professional Residence Life staff members
- served as a senior level judicial officer
- worked as the divisional liaison to Physical Plant, Off-Campus Programs, and Dining Services
- managed campus housing processes and supervised department housing assistant
- directed Snow Mountain Ranch Leadership Challenge Institute
- mentored students returning from disciplinary suspension
- represented the Student Life Division on multiple university committees

Cornerstone University, Grand Rapids, MI; Director of Student Activities

August 1996 to September 1998

- maintained university's program calendar, planned "Welcome Week" and other campus wide activities
- mentored student government executive team and class officers

Malone University, Canton, OH; Residence Hall Director

August 1993 to July 1996

- supervised a Resident Assistant staff of five, responsible for the overall operation of a co-ed residence hall of 140 students
- served as a campus judicial officer

Geneva College, Beaver Falls, PA; Residence Hall Director

July 1991 to July 1993

- supervised a Resident Assistant staff of four, responsible for the overall operation of a residence hall of 140 male students
- served as a Coalition for Christian Outreach ministry staff member leading bible studies, small groups, and weekly fellowship meetings

COURSES TAUGHT

Dissertation Research, Abilene Christian University, 2020-2023

Legal and Ethical Issues in Higher Education, Abilene Christian University, 2017-2023

College Student Development/Theory, Abilene Christian University, 2019-2023

Introduction to Student Services, Abilene Christian University, 2020-2022

Higher Education Resource Management, Abilene Christian University, 2017, 2021

Foundations of Enrollment Management, Abilene Christian University, 2020

Contemporary Issues in Organizational Leadership, Abilene Christian University, 2017

College Students in America, Geneva College, 2008-2011

Assessment and Retention, Geneva College, 2010

History of Higher Education, Geneva College, 2009-2010

Research Methods, Geneva College, 2009-2010

Student Development Theory to Practice, Geneva College, 2009

Learning and Transition, Geneva College, 1992, 2009

Residence Life in Higher Education, Geneva College, 2006, 2008

Communication and Culture, Calvin University, 2007-2008

Prelude, Calvin University, 2001-2005

Humanities 100, Malone University, 1994-1995

DISSERTATION COMMITTEES SERVED

- Avalos, L. (2023) Exploring the Upward Transfer Advising Experience of First-Generation Latinx Community College Students, Abilene Christian University (Chair)
- King, F. (2021) Academic Advisors' Experience with Academic Entitlement: A Phenomenological Study, Abilene Christian University
- Smith, A. (2021) Leadership in Disciplinary Alternative Education Programs and the School to Prison Pipeline, Abilene Christian University
- Aromolaran, S. (2020) Challenges of Middle School to High School Transition: A Phenomenological Study of the Experiences of Students Transitioning from Eighth Grade to Ninth Grade, Abilene Christian University
- Duran, A. (2020) Identifying Role, Competencies, and Outputs of Student Support Specialists in STEM Core Models in California, Abilene Christian University
- Grotton, D. (2020) The Interaction of Adversity, Hope, Social Support, and Academic Resilience in Emerging Appalachian Adults, Abilene Christian University
- Brantley, K. (2019) A Look at Vision: Perspectives throughout the Organizational Hierarchy of the Christian University Context, Abilene Christian University
- Sheffield, J. (2019) A Phenomenological Study on the Influence of a Leadership Living-Learning Community on First Generation College Student Social Integration, Abilene Christian University
- Arendt, B. (2008) Student Selection and Retention at Universities: A Search for Similarities and Differences, Western Michigan University

MASTERS THESIS COMMITTEES SERVED

- Dent, T. (2012) The Experience of Low-Income White Students at a Christian College, Geneva College
- Colledge, E. (2007) A Comparison of Social Justice Ally Development Between Students Attending Public and Private Institutions, Geneva College

PUBLICATIONS

- Zomer, R. (2009). *Moving forward by looking back*. Koinonia, August 2011.
- Zomer, R. (2008). *Has Facebook jumped the shark?* Koinonia, Spring 2008.
- Zomer, R. (2007). *An examination of the applicability of Tinto's model of student persistence at a Christian liberal arts college*, Growth, Spring 2007.

PRESENTATIONS

- Empathetic Listening; Why Posture Matters When Engaging with Youth and Emerging Adults.* Inspire, 2021
- What are We Doing Rather Than Why are They Leaving: Examining Emerging Adults' Experience in the Church.* CRCNA Synod, 2019
- When I Was Your Age.* Inspire, 2019
- What I Learned about Youth Ministry in St. Louis, MO.* All Ontario Youth Convention, 2019
- The Road to 30: Moving from Millennials to Emerging Adults.* Exponential, 2018
- Reaching the Next Generation.* Luminex Podcast, 2017
- Confusing Who With What: Keeping Career Aspirations in the Proper Perspective.* Woodland Christian High School Commencement Address, 2016
- Beyond a Brand: Helping International Students Navigate the College Selection Process.* Wheaton Academy Homestay Symposium, 2015
- Using the Past to Plan for Your Future.* Snow Mountain Ranch Leadership Program, 2015
- Crossing the College Search Finish Line.* Wheaton Academy Homestay Symposium, 2014
- What Do You Love About Leadership?* Young Life Student Leadership Project, 2013
- Pre-College Immersion Programs for International Students.* Michigan Pre-College and Youth Conference, 2012
- Calvin University and the History of Higher Education.* Calvin University New Staff Orientation, 2012
- The Dan Plan: Can 10,000 Hours of Practice Make You a Leader?* Young Life Student Leadership Project, 2012
- Pick a Target With a Purpose.* Grand Rapids Christian High School Chapel, 2012
- The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly: Working with Students in the Age of Technology.* Association of Christians in Student Development New Professionals Retreat, 2010
- That's History: The First 375 Years of Higher Education in the United States.* Association of Christians in Student Development New Professionals Retreat, 2010
- What Does Living Have to Do With Learning?* Waynesburg University, 2010
- Look Beyond the Horizon: The Case for Vertical Mentoring.* Geneva College Student Life Professional Development Training, 2009
- The Greatest Generation?* Malone University Student Development Retreat, 2009
- 7 Things I Hate About You.* Grove City College Resident Assistant Training, 2009
- Facebook 101: What Happens On-Line Stays On-Line. Or Does It?* Calvin University Family Weekend, 2007
- I Don't Really Know You But We're Friends on Facebook: Social Networking and the Web.* Calvin University Faculty Fall Conference, 2007
- I Kissed Facebook Goodbye.* Association of Christians in Student Development Annual Conference, 2007
- Examining the Bigger Picture: Incorporating the Power of Peers Throughout the Judicial Process.* Association for Student Judicial Affairs Annual Conference, 2007
- Working with 'At-Risk' Students.* Calvin University Faculty Fall Conference, 2006
- The Spiritual Life of America's Most Animated Family.* IDIS 149 Presentation, Calvin University, 2004

COMMITTEE WORK

Calvin University, Committee on Admissions, Chair, 2012-2015
Calvin University, Enrollment Management Committee, 2012-2013
Calvin University, First Year Student Experience Task Force, 2011-2015
Calvin University, On-Line Learning Task Force, Fall 2011-2015
Calvin University, Staff Recognition Committee, Spring 2011-2014
Geneva College, Faculty Policy and Development Committee, 2009-2010
Geneva College, Retention Committee, 2008-2010
Geneva College, Student Discipline Committee, 2008-2010
Calvin University, Student Life Division Strategic Planning Committee, 2006-2008
Calvin University, Student Life Division Professional Development Committee, 2006-2008
Calvin University, Residence Life Master Planning Committee, 2006
Calvin University, Student Life Division Master Planning Committee, 2006
Calvin University, Leadership Challenge Institute at Snow Mountain Ranch, 2005-2006
Calvin University, Student Discipline Committee, 2004-2008
Calvin University, Job Evaluation Committee, 2004-2006
Calvin University, Committee for Guidance on College Expenditures, 2004-2005
Calvin University, Director of Campus Safety Search Committee, 2004-2005
Calvin University, Wellness Center/Campus Commons Planning Committee, 2003-2004
Calvin University, Critical Incident Committee, 2001-2002
Calvin University, International Student Resource Team, Chair, 2001-2002
Calvin University, Director of Physical Plant Search Committee, 2001-2002
Calvin University, National Christian Multicultural Student Leadership Conference Planning Committee, 2001
Calvin University, Housing Appeals Committee, Chair, 1999-2004
Calvin University, Admissions Committee, 1998-2008
Calvin University, Academic Review Committee, 1998-2005

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Youth Pastor Search Committee Chair, Fifth Reformed Church, Grand Rapids MI, 2020
Fifth Reformed Church Strat Ops Team Member, Grand Rapids, MI, 2018
Administrative Deacon, Fifth Reformed Church, Grand Rapids, MI, 2015-2018
Together Pittsburgh Marriage Mentor, First Presbyterian Church, Beaver, PA, 2008- 2010
Middle School Youth Group Leader, First Presbyterian Church, Beaver, PA, 2008-2010
Deacon, Brookside Christian Reformed Church, Grand Rapids, MI, 2007-2008
Adult Education Committee, Brookside Christian Reformed Church, Grand Rapids, MI, 2004-2006
Potter's House Foundation Board Member, Grand Rapids, MI, 2004-2008

AWARDS

Calvin University, Student Development Office, Faculty Advisor of the Year, 2003-2004

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

National Association for College Admissions Counseling 2010-2015
North American Coalition for Christian Admissions Professionals 2010-2015
Leadership Grand Rapids, 2012-2013
Association of Student Judicial Affairs, 2001-2008
National Association of Student Personnel Administrators, 2001-2003
Association of Christians in Student Development, 1991-2008