Career Path Success Stories – Rising Through the Ranks

Christopher Lozano, MBA, Director of Student Recruitment, Eberhardt School of Business

When did you first join the University?
1989 as a regular, full-time employee; came in as a student in 1985

What was your first position and in which department?
Admissions Counselor in the Admissions Office

What is the history of your movement to different positions on campus?
For the first 8 years I spent my career in the Admissions office, earning three promotions during that time. I then moved into a director level role managing recruitment for the School of Business and have held that position for 11 years.

What steps did you take, if any, or how did you prepare for your current position?
Completed pre-requisites for the MBA program while still in admissions and entered the MBA program when I moved over to the School of Business. In my prior roles I developed organizational and strategic planning skills that enabled me to land the position I have today. Understanding the central admissions processes also gave me insights that help in my job today.

If you were going to give a single tip to other staff for Career Paths at Pacific, what would it be?
Volunteer and get involved in a variety of activities (committees, events, etc.) because the diversity of relationships you develop across campus will be useful when you need to be resourceful in solving problems or ready to seek a new, challenging opportunity.

Any new goals you’d like to share?
I’m always open to new challenges and opportunities for professional development. I’m exploring doctoral programs offered at Pacific.
Dede M. Sanchez, Associate Registrar, Office of the Registrar

When did you first join the University?
I started working on September 1, 1972.

What was your first position and in which department?
My first position was a data entry staff in the Office of the Registrar.

What is the history of your movement to different positions on campus?
Records Coordinator
Office Supervisor
Office Coordinator
Associate Registrar

What steps did you take, if any, or how did you prepare for your current position?
I helped and paid special attention in areas outside my duties to learn and foster growth.

If you were going to give a single tip to other staff for Career Paths at Pacific, what would it be?
Embrace change.

Any new goals you’d like to share?
After the many years here, I would like to work part time in transitioning toward retirement.
Kitty Gilbert, Administrative Coordinator, Academic/School of International Studies

When did you first join the University?
April, 1989

What was your first position and in which department?
Part-Time Senior Office Secretary, Graduate School

What is the history of your movement to different positions on campus?
1. 1990 Graduate School – I started in a p/t position which changed to a full 7.5 hr day temp position. The position ended due to a cut back in positions (every unit had to cut back one p/t position) and a hiring freeze.
2. January 1990 the Academic Vice President hired me to work in his office with his Administrative Assistant.
3. In 1996 I moved within the Office of the Provost to work with the new Assistant Provost for Diversity and Faculty Development, as her Administrative Assistant III. I was in that position for ten years for a total of 16 years in the Office of the Provost.
4. In August of 2006 I moved to the School of International Studies to work as the Dean’s assistant.

What steps did you take, if any, or how did you prepare for your current position?
My work experience and knowledge of campus; training classes (both on and off campus), that the Assistant Provost for Diversity and Faculty Development encouraged me to take combined with the strong mentorship I have received from faculty and administrators over my years on campus.

If you were going to give a single tip to other staff for Career Paths at Pacific, what would it be?
To set at least 1-2 goals for yourself, continue training/education and have good professional work ethics.

Do you want to share any additional thoughts?
I have gained a fulfilling career from working at the University. I have built strong friendships over the years with staff and faculty that I would never trade. In my present position, I enjoy working with students, completing my circle at the University. I would not trade my 20½ years at Pacific! Go Tigers!
Mary Van Winkle-Nevis, MBA, Coordinator of Technical Support, Eberhardt School of Business

When did you first join the University?
I joined the University in December 1983.

What was your first position and in which department?
I was hired as a departmental secretary in the School of Pharmacy.

What is the history of your movement to different positions on campus?
1983-1989 – Dept Secretary School of Pharmacy
1990 – 1998 – Computer Resource Coordinator/Network Admin School of Pharmacy
1998 – Present – Coordinator of Technical Support

What steps did you take, if any, or how did you prepare for your current position?
At the time I was working in Pharmacy, there was very few staff or faculty using any computer systems. During my lunch breaks, I would spend the time teaching myself word processing skills using the workstations of other secretaries in the school that had terminals at their desks. I was very persistent in asking my boss for a computer at my desk. It took 9 months for the request to be approved.

Since that time I’ve taken initiative to learn new programs and systems. I have been the person in the department that everyone came to asking for help with technology.

I became a certified network engineer (CNE) on my own time after I was promoted to the position of computer resource coordinator.

Since I have been at the school of business I also completed my bachelor’s degree (BSBA) and was the Summa Cum Laude graduate of the 2005 class.

If you were going to give a single tip to other staff for Career Paths at Pacific, what would it be?
Always keep learning!

Any new goals you’d like to share?
I plan to obtain a PMP (project management professional) designation and Microsoft certification to continue my own learning.

Do you want to share any additional thoughts?

With the proximity of Delta College (very affordable and convenient evening classes), get the GE work done there. Don’t be afraid to pursue a bachelor’s degree and become qualified for more opportunities at Pacific.