

UWW Community Advisor: Michelle Obama

University Without Walls is a competency-based degree program that leads to a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degree. UWW students design and complete approved experiential curricula as an alternative to traditional courses. To do this, they need the help of an NEIU Academic Advisor with expertise in their particular field of study, and a community advisor who has professional expertise in that area. One very famous person who served as a UWW community advisor in 1999 was **Michelle Obama**.



While serving as the University of Chicago's Assistant Dean of Students, Michelle Obama volunteered to mentor and advise a UWW student, Jose Antonio Rico Gonzalez. She supported Jose's nontraditional route to obtain a bachelor's degree in Community Leadership Development. She assisted Jose from the beginning, with the first Semester Report and at the very end when signing Jose's UWW graduation memo (pictured right).

Michelle Obama
Michelle Obama, Asst. Dean of Students
Community Serv. Cntr. Univ. of Chgo.
Community Advisor

The success of the UWW program relies on these community connections dedicated to higher education. UWW Community Advisors are the ones who bring a unique perspective to the UWW student's programming, outside of the academic curriculum. The Community Advisors work closely with the UWW students on a regular basis to bridge theoretical learning from the collegiate environment into the concrete applications of their jobs. In the words of Michelle Obama, "We learned about gratitude and humility, that so many people had a hand in our success, from the teachers who inspired us to the janitors who kept our school clean....and we were taught to value everyone's contribution and treat everyone with respect" (Democratic National Convention, 2012).

Lincoln Academy Student Laureate: Alicia Ozier, BAIS Student

Congratulations to **Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies** student, **Alicia Ozier** for being honored as a **Lincoln Academy Student Laureate** by Northeastern Illinois University! The Lincoln Academy's Abraham Lincoln Civic Engagement Awards are presented to students who embody the spirit of Abraham Lincoln through excellence in curricular and extracurricular activities. Alicia will receive a Student Laureate Medallion, a \$1,000 educational grant and a certificate of achievement at the Student Laureate Convocation. This honor is only bestowed upon one senior from each of Illinois' four-year, degree-granting colleges and universities, and one student from the community colleges.



"Northeastern has been very welcoming," Alicia said. "The space in which we learn is challenging and allowed me to bring my professional experiences into the classroom to validate what I knew, but also to refine and attempt to learn new approaches." (<http://www.neiu.edu/about/news/alicia-ozier-nominated-lincoln-academy-student-laureate>)

BAIS Alumnus Cashell Lewis



Cashell Lewis graduated in May 2015 as a double major in Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies and Social Work. "I applied to four of the top five social work graduate programs and was accepted with full scholarship offers from all of them," Cashell Lewis stated. "I believe my BAIS degree showed grad schools that the diversity in my education could be very beneficial to their institutions."

Cashell is now enrolled at Washington University in St. Louis to complete his master's degree in Social Work. His unique concentration, Social Economic Development, has made him a research fellow for the Diversity and Inclusion department. Cashell is responsible for conducting research centered on measuring the diversity at his university as well as implementing programs that promote diversity and inclusion. He is also part of several research projects and community development projects.

When starting at NEIU, Cashell just wanted to have a degree and did not think how the coursework could benefit him and his career choice. "I was totally wrong," Cashell recalled. "After the initial meeting with a BAIS advisor, **Jennifer Blair**, I saw the possibilities of creating a curriculum, and that got me excited." Customizing a personalized curriculum is one of the many benefits BAIS students enjoy. They are given options to tailor their learning to reflect their personal career choices and interests with the help and support of NDP staff.

"It was the support of the staff that made the difference in my journey," Cashell said. "**Dr. Sanborn** [NDP Director] was very instrumental in me being a part of the **McNair Scholars Program**, a program that prepared me for grad school. I personally sent Dr. Sanborn over 30 grad schools essays to review and she also wrote probably 30 letters of recommendation. She reviewed each one and sat down with me to give feedback on strengths and weaknesses on each one."

NDP Advice from a Graduate

BAIS alumnus Cashell Lewis (see article on page 1) shares advice and tips for a successful NDP program by offering this advice to future and current BAIS students:

- Do not allow institutional norms to restrict you in your educational journey.
- Apply and go to a BAIS Prospective Student meeting, see how the program can benefit you.
- Meet with the BAIS staff often, they are the most valuable resource the program has to offer. Many programs talk about inclusion, but BAIS embodies inclusion. The staff are very invested in you and when you talk to them, it shows.
- Use the NDP resources and take advantage of the flexibility the program offers.
- BAIS will help you effectively individualize your curriculum and goals

NDP Expands Free Tutoring Services

Kathryn Younkie Sahyouni, a 2013 graduate of Loyola University Chicago, is currently enrolled in the NEIU MA program in School Counseling.

Kathryn tutors:

- mathematics courses
- social sciences courses
- study skills in general
- essay writing



To arrange an appointment, email Kathryn at: k-younkie@neiu.edu

Tasha Banks, a 2012 graduate of Michigan State University, is currently enrolled in the NEIU MA program in Inner City Studies.

Tasha tutors:

- humanities courses
- social sciences courses
- study skills in general
- essay writing



To arrange an appointment, email Tasha at: t-banks1@neiu.edu

Kevin Mulka is a recent BAIS graduate with a minor in TESL. Kevin is now pursuing an MA in Teaching Elementary Education at NEIU.

Kevin tutors:

- ESL and TESL
- math (up to calculus)
- essay writing
- MSTQE math

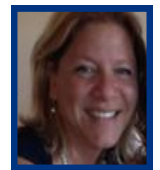


To arrange an appointment, email Kevin at: k-mulka@neiu.edu

Jacquelyn Weiner-O'Shea graduated from BAIS program and is currently pursuing her MA in Family Counseling at NEIU.

Jacqui helps students with:

- DSST and CLEP prep
- test taking anxiety
- study skills



To arrange an appointment, email Jacqui at: jweinero@neiu.edu

NDP 1 Credit Hour Courses

Did you know that the NDP program offers three courses that are each worth one credit hour? Students can earn three credit hours at the 300 level, while learning valuable skills. These classes are:

Intro to Library Research and Information Fluency - NDP 305

Creating a Prior Learning Portfolio - NDP 330

Time and Project Management - NDP 351

Each of these one credit hour courses are scheduled so that you will be finished with the class by the time you are halfway through the semester! If you are planning to create a Prior Learning Portfolio, NDP 330 will guide you through this process and fulfills the ELE and 300 level requirements. If you are moving on to a graduate program, NDP 305 and NDP 351 provide tools that will enhance the success of your academic undertakings.

UWW Academic Advisors

NDP would like to take a moment to acknowledge and thank the NEIU faculty members who serve as UWW Academic Advisors. UWW Academic Advisors empower all students to envision a brighter future with a bachelor's degree by helping them plan each step of their degree curriculum.

The NEIU faculty members who are offering their valuable time and sincere support this semester and last, include:

Sunni Ali	Breckie Church	Zada Johnson	Chuck Pistorio
Wilfredo Alvarez	Gabriel Cortez	Benneth Lee	Edie Rubinowitz
Jacquelyn Anderson	Timothy Duggan	Tracey Luedke	Kimberly Sanborn
Saba Ayman-Nolley	Laurie Fuller	Maribel Lopez	Brian Schultz
Jen Banas	Frank Gaytan	Eleni Makris	Radhika Sharma
Kimya Barden	Ana Gil Garcia	Nancy Matthews	William Sieger
James Ball	Gary Gaspard	Mark McKernin	Katy Smith
Michael Bedell	Troy Harden	Audrey Natcone	Jade Stanley
Josef Ben Levi	Richard Helldobler	Luis Ortiz	Robert Starks
Rachael Birmingham	Nickolas Hoel	Isaura Pulido	Laura Tejada
Marcia Buell	Nicole Holland	Graciela Perera	Isidore Udoh
Andrew Brake	Lisa Hollis-Sawyer	Olivia Perlow	Lance Williams

NEIU is for All Learners

"Why should society feel responsible only for the education of children, and not for the education of all adults of every age?" -Erich Fromm

According to Washington Monthly magazine, there are 20.2 million students attending American colleges and universities; 40 percent of that population are adults, aged 25 or older. Even though this high percentage is not a new trend, adult learners are still an underserved population on American campuses. However, NDP has always valued meeting the needs of adult learners in a manner compatible with career and family responsibilities. All students, traditional and nontraditional, are able to have higher-education options through the NDP's UWW and BAIS programs.

These programs helped Northeastern Illinois University become ranked as one of the top universities for adult learners in the September/October 2016 issue of Washington Monthly. Interim President **Richard J. Helldobler** had the following to say about this honor "As an institution that takes great pride in all of its diversity, Northeastern Illinois University is proud to be recognized for serving a segment of the student population that often is ignored," (NEIU named among nation's best for adult learners, 2016).

NDP is proud to be such an integral part of fostering adult learning on a campus that appreciates diversity. Our programs support this diversity among students and will continue to do so every semester by employing a generous transfer of credit policy, awarding merit scholarships, and developing new workshops to assist in studying, testing, and earning credits by portfolios.

NDP Director, **Kim Sanborn**, had the following to say about students of all ages: "We have a responsibility to make sure the road to achievement is set up with support and efficacy, no matter how young or old a student is. Our main focus at NDP is to making sure students are successful, informed and engaged, in our institution. This is why we have been and will continually be successful. Success begets success."

National Nontraditional Student Week

Every year during the first full week of November, **National Nontraditional Student Week** is celebrated across the nation. This annual celebration is dedicated to recognizing nontraditional students' contribution to higher education. National Nontraditional Student Week also recognizes the people that have helped and supported these students along the way to obtaining their college degrees.

Please stop by the NDP office (B-147) on November 7 from 9 am to 5 pm to say hello, make an advising appointment, and grab a cookie and a bookmark!

There will also be a **Credit By Examination Workshop** on November 7 from 3pm-4pm in FA 255. If you want information about taking CLEP and DSST tests to get credit towards your degree, be sure to attend the workshop!

New NDP Credit by Exam Workshop

The Credit by Exam Workshop was developed for prospective students to learn and inquire about opportunities to achieve credits outside of traditional coursework. Students who elect this option will be studying independently and are encouraged to participate in this Q&A session that focuses on topics such as:

- Choosing exams
- Building a timetable for success
- Skills for independent study
- Strategies to overcome test anxiety
- Test taking tips
- Exam registration and fees
- Scoring and transcripts

The fees for these courses may be reimbursable for students currently in or retired from the military .

Please contact Jacqui Weiner-O'Shea for more information about upcoming workshops at jweine-ro@neiu.edu.

Help with Test Anxiety

Please feel free to pick-up handouts at the NDP office (B 147) or email a request to NDP@neiu.edu. Use the handouts for tips to manage stress and learn ways to navigate through different types of exams. Some of the handouts' topics include:

- Math
- Open Book
- Multiple Choice
- Oral Exam
- Essay
- True/False

New NDP Scholarship

At NDP, we understand how difficult it can be for students to finance their education, that is why we invite you to be one of the founding donors of a new endowed scholarship for NDP students.

Our goal is to reach the \$5,000 mark by December 2016. Please contribute your tax-deductible gift to the NEIU Foundation by going to:

<https://your.neiu.edu/sslpage.aspx?pid=298>

After selecting your donation information, please select designation for "Nontraditional Degree Program", and complete the rest of the form as prompted.

Thank you in advance for contributing to NDP students' futures!

Student Leadership Development (SLD)

Are you trying to meet learning objectives for your UWW degree? Student Leadership Development (SLD) offers several workshops a year to enhance skills and increase your awareness of strengths. SLD workshops include Diversity & Leadership, Conflict Resolution, Interpersonal Skills, and many more.

Are you a BAIS student looking to become more involved on-campus? The Leadership Pathways program is designed to allow students to engage in a variety of workshops and co-curricular experiences to enhance leadership skills.

Additionally, look out for upcoming news for SLD's next TEDxNEIU event coming Spring 2017! At the TEDxNEIU event, TEDTalks video and live speakers combine to spark deep discussion and connection on-campus.

Please contact the SLD office at (773) 442-4660 for more information on workshops, programs, and updates for the TEDxNEIU event.

NDP Office Staff Fall 2016

The NDP Office, B-147 is fully staffed with people who are here to help you every day.

Kim Sanborn— Director, NDP
 Tim Barnett— Faculty Advisor, UWW
 Jennifer Blair— Program Specialist, BAIS
 Jacqueline Butler— Program Specialist, BAIS
 Trease Sockol— Office Support Specialist, NDP
 Ed Porter— Office Support Assistant, NDP
 Susan Berkman— Instructor, NDP
 Antuanette Mester—Instructor, NDP
 Erica Krueger— Adj. Faculty Instructor, NDP
 Jacquelyn Weiner-O'Shea— Grad Assistant, NDP
 Justine Altman—Grad Assistant, UWW
 David Robertson— Grad Assistant, UWW
 Tasha Banks— Tutor, NDP
 Kevin Mulka— Tutor, NDP
 Kathryn Younkie-Sahyouni— Tutor, NDP
 Athena Hilentzaris— Work Study, NDP
 Josh Taylor— Work Study, NDP

What Would You Like to Read About in Our Next Newsletter?

Is there a topic you would like us to report on, someone on-campus you would like to interviewed, or an event you would like to have us highlight?

Please send suggestions for future newsletter articles, interviews, happenings, and/or announcements to NDP@neiu.edu.

Thank you and we look forward to reading your suggestions!