

SCHOOL COUNSELING TRANSCRIPT

I'M GRAELICIA OROZCO. I AM AN ASSISTANT PROFESSOR HERE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF THE COUNSELING AND ALSO THE SCHOOL COUNSELING COORDINATOR. I STARTED OUT AS A TEACHER AND THEN BECAME A HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELOR AND STAYED IN THE SCHOOLS FOR ABOUT 12 YEARS. THAT'S IN THE K-12 SCHOOLS.

NOW, I AM REALLY HAPPEN TO BE HERE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF THE COUNSELING, PREPARING STUDENTS WHO ARE GOING TO GO OUT AND BE SCHOOL COUNSELORS. I FEEL IT'S AN IMPORTANT KIND OF JOB, AN IMPORTANT CHALLENGE FOR US TO PREPARE THE RIGHT KINDS OF PEOPLE WHO WILL GO OUT AND WORK WITH OUR YOUNG PEOPLE.

THIS IS AN EXCITING TIME TO GO TO THE FIELD OF SCHOOL COUNSELING. FOR ONE THING, WE NOW HAVE NATIONAL STANDARDS, WHICH WERE NOT AROUND WHEN I FIRST BECAME A SCHOOL COUNSELOR. BUT THE NATIONAL STANDARDS ARE PROVIDING A GUIDELINE. THEY ARE PROVIDING A FRAMEWORK FOR THOSE OF US WHO HAVE AN INTEREST IN SCHOOL COUNSELING AND WHO WANT TO GO OUT THERE AND DO THE BEST THAT WE CAN DO IN TERMS OF PROVIDING COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES FOR OUR

STUDENTS. BEING A SCHOOL COUNSELOR IS NOT AN EASY TASK. SCHOOL COUNSELORS HAVE HUGE CASELOADS. ANYWHERE FROM 300, 400, 500, I MEAN, IT COULD BE EVEN UP TO 1,000 STUDENTS. SO HOW IS IT WE ARE GOING TO BE ABLE TO ORGANIZE OURSELVES TO DO A GOOD JOB IN TERMS OF PREPARING OUR STUDENTS? AND YOU KNOW ONE OF THE THINGS THAT WE EMPHASIZE IN THIS PROGRAM IS FOR STUDENTS TO HAVE THE KNOWLEDGE, THE BASIS TO BE ABLE TO GO OUT AND TO DEVELOP THESE COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAMS, AND ALSO ADDRESS THE ACADEMIC ASPECT, SO THAT ALL STUDENTS ARE GOING TO BE SUCCESSFUL. WE REALIZE IT'S DIFFICULT TO BE ABLE TO DO THAT, GIVE THE HUGE CASELOAD THAT SCHOOL COUNSELORS HAVE. BUT THAT'S WHAT THE FRAMEWORK IS FOR, TO GIVE US AN IDEA OF HOW IT IS WE CAN STRUCTURE OUR JOBS TO BE ABLE TO DO A GOOD JOB.

WHAT DOES IT TAKE? WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO DO TO BE A SCHOOL COUNSELOR?

YOU HAVE TO DO, OF COURSE, 60 UNITS WITHIN OUR PROGRAM. YOU ALSO MUST HAVE PASSED A C-BEST. YOU HAVE TO PRESENT A PASSING SCORE FOR THE C-BEST IN ORDER TO GET THE CREDENTIAL. YOU DON'T HAVE TO TAKE ANY ADDITIONAL TEST, OR

A STATE EXAM OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT. BUT YOU DO NEED TO HAVE PASSED ALL THE COURSES. YOU NEED TO HAVE THE PASSING SCORES ON THE C-BEST OF -- FEE. AND ALSO MUST BE FINGERPRINTED AND YOUR PAPERWORK GOES OFF TO THE CALIFORNIA COMMISSION ON TEACHER CREDENTIALING, WHO IS THE BODY THAT GRANTS THE CREDENTIAL.

SO FOR ME, THE BOTTOM LINE IN SCHOOL COUNSELING HAS ALWAYS BEEN ABOUT THE KIDS. IT'S REALLY ABOUT WHAT IS MY PASSION? WHAT DO I REALLY ENJOY? AND I THINK THAT FOR ANYBODY WHO IS CONSIDERING COMING NOT A FIELD OF SCHOOL COUNSELING THAT YOU REALLY HAVE TO BE SOLD ON THE IDEA OF HELPING KIDS. AND WE ARE TALKING ABOUT KIDS WHO ARE K-12 POPULATION. THE KIDS COME FROM SO MANY CULTURAL BACKGROUNDS, FROM DIVERSE KINDS OF SEXUAL ORIENTATION, FROM DIFFERENT SOCIO-ECONOMIC CLASSES. SOME KIDS ARE ABLED; SOME KIDS ARE DISABLED. WE HAVE TO BE REALLY OPEN TO ACCEPTING ALL KINDS OF KIDS. AND BEING ABLE TO WORK WITH EACH ONE, AS A UNIQUE INDIVIDUAL, WITH THE KINDS OF THINGS THEY ARE ABLE TO CONTRIBUTE.

ONE OF MY FAVORITE POPULATIONS HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE TROUBLEMAKERS. I ABSOLUTELY ENJOY WORKING WITH KIDS WHO ARE, ARE THE TROUBLEMAKERS: THE GANG KIDS. THESE KIDS HAVE SO MUCH POTENTIAL IF WE ARE JUST ABLE TO MAKE A HUMAN CONNECTION WITH THEM, AND IF WE ARE ABLE TO ACCEPT THEM FOR WHO THEY ARE AND BRING THEM ALONG AND IF WE BELIEVE IN THEM. IF WE HAVE THE EXPECTATION THAT EVERY SINGLE CHILD CAN SUCCEED, THAT'S REALLY GOING TO TAKE US A LONG WAY.

I AM GLAD TO HEAR YOU'RE CONSIDERING COMING INTO THE FIELD OF SCHOOL COUNSELING. I THINK IT'S A GREAT FIELD. IT HAS A GREAT POTENTIAL. AND THE REWARDS OF WORKING WITH KIDS AND THEIR PARENTS, TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS, IS TREMENDOUS. SO I REALLY ENCOURAGE YOU TO COME INTO THE FIELD OF SCHOOL COUNSELING.

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