DR. VERNETTA B. KOSALKA

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EDUCATION

Ed.D. College of Saint Mary, Doctor of Education May 2021
Dissertation: "Examination of Factors Impacting Culinary Arts Student Persistence"
Committee: Dr. Pamela Humphrey, Dr. Jaqueline Almquist, and Dr. Whitney Rubin

M.S. College of Saint Mary, Master of Science: Organizational Leadership May 2007
Thesis: "Women of Color in Leadership"
Advisor: Dr. Tammy Mehr

B.S. College of Saint Mary, Bachelor of Science May 2003
Dual Major: Business Administration and Computer Information Management
Minored in Marketing

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Alumni Achievement Award, College of Saint Mary 2017
- Nominee, Business of the Year, Sarpy County Chamber 2017
- Spirit of Blue, Omaha Police Officers Ball 2016
- Volunteer of the Year, Ralston Chamber of Commerce 2015
- WeddingWire Couple's Choice Awards, Omaha Police Officers Ball 2013-2017
- Top 25% Guest Satisfaction Scores, Marriott Hotels – Fairfield Inn and Suites 2009
- Budget Beater Awards, Marriott Hotels – Fairfield Inn and Suites 2010, 2012
- Heart of the Walking Women Honor, College of Saint Mary 2003

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Dissertation, College of Saint Mary, Doctor of Education May 2021
Dissertation: "Examination of Factors Impacting Culinary Arts Student Persistence"
Advisor: Dr. Pamela Humphrey
Committee: Dr. Jaqueline Almquist and Dr. Whitney Rubin

Thesis, College of Saint Mary, Master of Science: Organizational Leadership May 2007
Research: "Women of Color in Leadership"
Advisor: Dr. Tammy Mehr

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Nebraska Lincoln, Lincoln, NE 2022 - Present
Assistant Professor of Practice: Hospitality, Restaurant, Tourism Management

- Introduction to Hospitality
- Introduction to Events
- Hospitality Financial Management
- Internship
- Field Experience

Metropolitan Community College, Omaha, NE 2007; 2017 - Present
Instructor: Culinary, Hospitality, Horticulture

- Culinary Arts and Management: Customer Service
- Culinary Arts and Management: Student Manager
- Hospitality/Restaurant Leadership - Food and Event Management: Food Service Financial Management
- Hospitality/Restaurant Leadership - Hospitality Entrepreneurship: Marketing + Industry Perspectives
- Culinary Arts and Management: Culinary Math

Metropolitan Community College, Omaha, NE 2018 - Present
Program Coordinator: Event & Wedding Planning Non-Credit Certificate

- Event + Wedding Planning: Event Planning Business - Increasing Sales
- Event + Wedding Planning: Wedding and Event Trends
- Event + Wedding Planning: Building a Culture of Creative Thinking
- Event + Wedding Planning: Designing Event Backdrops
- Event + Wedding Planning: Event Design and Floral Artistry
- Event + Wedding Planning: Event Destination Management
- Event + Wedding Planning: Meeting Management
- Event + Wedding Planning: Negotiating Event Contracts and Agreements
- Event + Wedding Planning: Entrepreneurship Series: How to Start a Wedding Planning Business
- Event + Wedding Planning: Financial Management
- Event + Wedding Planning: Event Coordination + Production
- Event + Wedding Planning: Catering – Food and Beverage Logistics
- Event + Wedding Planning: Marketing – Establishing a Social Media Presence
- Event + Wedding Planning: Event Crisis Communication
- Event + Wedding Planning: Sophistical 2020 Tall Centerpieces
- Culinary Arts: Paired Dinner: Regional Cuisines (Sangria + Tapas)
- Culinary Arts: Paired Dinner: Holiday Hosting + Napkin Folding
- Culinary Arts: Historical Pairing Studio: Titanic, The Last Dinner

Bellevue University Omaha, NE 2017 - 2018
Adjunct Instructor; Business Administration and Hospitality Management

- Business Administration: Organizational Leadership
- Hospitality Management: Culture of Customer Service

PUBLICATIONS

Dissertation

Dissertation: "Examination of Factors Impacting Culinary Arts Student Persistence"
Advisor: Dr. Pamela Humphrey
Committee: Dr. Jaqueline Almquist, Dr. Whitney Rubin

eBooks

VK Education: Event + Wedding Planning eBook series, Location: un-Published, 2018.

Magazines

Midlands Business Journal 2007, 2013, 2020
Omaha Magazine – B2B Winter, 2017
Nebraska Wedding Day Magazine 2009-2017

PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED LECTURES

- NISOD Academic Fall 2021 - Presenter
- Panelist, Student Leadership Conference, September 2021
- Panelist, National Coalition of 100 Black Women, September 2021
- Workshop, Metropolitan Community College "Examination of Factors Impacting Culinary Arts Student Persistence," MCC Academic Advisors Conference, July 2021
- Workshop, Higher Education Customer Service, Enrollment Management Services
- Guests Lecturer, Banquet and Services Class
- Guests Lecturer, Event Planning Course
- Keynote Address, College of Saint Mary "Reframing and Resilience," Winter Commencement, December 2020
- Emcee, Metropolitan Community College, Mistress of Ceremonies, Student Leadership Conference, October 2019
- Workshop, Metropolitan Community College "Power of Personal Branding," Student Leadership Conference, October 2017

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

- Scholarship of Teach and Learning, 2021 MCC
- ICAN Women's Conference, 2021
- National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development, Online Conference, 2021
- National Restaurant Association/American Culinary Federation, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC, 2019
- Certified Meeting Planner, Events Industry Council, Candidate 2020- Present
- ServeSafe, Instructor and Proctor, 2017- Present
- National Restaurant Association, ManageFirst Instructor, 2017-Present
- Metropolitan Community College, Mental Health First Aid, 2018 – Present
- Marriott Hotels, Certified Meeting Planning Professional, 2017
- Marriott Hotels, Certified Government Meeting Planner Professional, 2007

- Omaha Bartending School, Certified Mixologist, 2003Professional Affiliations
- MCC, Path Forward Career Exploration Committee, 2021 - Present
- NISOD, Member, 2020 - Present
- American Culinary Federation, 2017-Present

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- Metropolitan Community College, Path Forward Committee 2020 - Present
- Metropolitan Community College, Hiring Committees 2018 - Present
- Metropolitan Community College 2020 - 2020
  Culinary Arts Accreditation Committee
- Metropolitan Community College 2020 - Present
  Sustainability Planning Committee
- Metropolitan Community College, 2019, 2020
  Student Leadership Conference, Co-Organizer
- Metropolitan Community College, Student Engagement 2017 - 2018
  Council Planning Committee
- Metropolitan Community College, Skills USA Advisor 2019 - Present
- Metropolitan Community College, Advisory Board, Culinary Arts 2018 - Present
- Bellevue University, Advisory Board, Hospitality Management 2017 - 2019
- Bellevue University, Subject Matter Expert 2018 - 2019
  Hospitality Management

MEMBERSHIPS/COMMUNITY SERVICE

- National Center for Faculty Development & Diversity 2022 - Present
- American Hotel Lodging Education Institute Association 2022 - Present
- American Culinary Federation, Member 2018 - Present
- Events Industry Council, Member 2020 – Present
- Greater Omaha Chamber, Member 2004 - 2016
- Lauritzen Gardens Guild, Member 2017 – Present
- Society of American Florist, Member 2016 - 2019
- National Association of Catering Executives, Member 2020 – Present
- Ralston Chamber, Board Member 2013 - 2019
- Sarpy County Chamber, Special Events Chair 2015 - 2017

WORK EXPERIENCE

- **Assistant Professor of Practice** 2022 - Present
  University of Nebraska Lincoln, Lincoln, NE
- **Banquet & Services Manager** 2018 - 2022
  Metropolitan Community College Omaha, NE
- **Adjunct Instructor** 2018 - 2019
  Bellevue University

- **Instructor** 2007, 2017 - Present
  Metropolitan Community College
- **Director of Sales & Marketing** 2014 - 2016
  Regency Lodge Omaha, NE
- **Owner/Director of Events and Design** 2009 - Present
  The Wedding Planner Omaha, LLC dba Florist of Omaha
- **Assistant General Manager | Director of Sales** 2007 - 2013
  Fairfield Inn & Suites
- **Director of Sales & Marketing** 2005 - 2007
  inPlay & Forte Banquet and Conference Center
- **Catering & Event Manager** 2004 - 2005
  Sheraton Downtown Omaha
- **Catering Administrative Assistant** 2003 - 2004
  Omaha Doubletree Downtown & EMC