

Vernetta B. Kosalka, Ed.D., CHE

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EDUCATION

- May 2021 Ed.D., College of Saint Mary, Doctor of Education
Dissertation: “Examination of Factors Impacting Culinary Arts Student Persistence”
Committee: Dr. Pamela Humphrey, Dr. Jaqueline Almquist, and Dr. Whitney Rubin
- May 2007 M.S., College of Saint Mary, Master of Science: Organizational Leadership
Thesis: “Women of Color in Leadership”
Advisor: Dr. Tammy Mehr
- May 2003 B.S., College of Saint Mary, Bachelor of Science
Dual Major: Business Administration and Computer Information Management
Minor in Marketing

HONORS AND AWARDS

- 2022-Present Director of Industry Relations, Central Federation Council on Hotel, Restaurant, and Institutional Education
- 2024 Completion of MAC Xcelerator (MAC-X) Program, Midlands African Chamber, Omaha, NE
- 2017 Alumni Achievement Award Recipient, College of Saint Mary
- 2003 Heart of the Walking Women Honor -highest honor for graduating class, College of Saint Mary, Omaha, NE
- 2016 Spirit of Blue, Omaha Police Department, Omaha, NE
- 2015 Volunteer of the Year, Ralston Chamber of Commerce, Ralston, NE
- 2013-2017 WeddingWire Couple's Choice Award
- 2012, 2010 Budget Beaters Award – Marriott
- 2009 Top 25% Guest Satisfaction Scores – Marriott

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Kosalka, V. (2023) HRTM 483 Hospitality Finance – A Peer Review of Teaching Project Benchmark Portfolio. UNL Faculty Portfolios

Kosalka, V. (2021) Examination of Factors Impacting Culinary Arts Student Persistence. College of Saint Mary ProQuest Dissertations Publishing [28493729]

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 Research: “Women of Color in Leadership” Advisor: Dr. Tammy Mehr (2007)

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION, BELONGING (DEIB)

Fall 2022, Spring 2023, Fall 2024 Hospitality DEIB Module: HRTM 171 Introduction to Hospitality Management, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, NE

Spring 2023 Hospitality DEIB Project-Based Learning Activity; Live Event Planning Project, North Omaha, NE & HRTM 289 Introduction to Event Planning, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, NE

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, NE

2022-Present: Assistant Professor of Practice: Hospitality, Restaurant, & Tourism Management

- HRTM 171 Introduction to Hospitality, (3c); Fall 2022, Spring 2023, Fall 2024, Spring 2025
- HRTM 289 Introduction to Events, (3c); Fall 2022, Spring 2023, Fall 2024, Spring 2025
- HRTM 483 Hospitality Financial Management, (3c); Fall 2022, Spring 2023
- HRTM 172 Field Experience in Hospitality Management, (3c); Fall 2022
- HRTM 397 Internship in Hospitality Management Supervision, (3c); Fall 2022
- HRTM 476 Internship in Hospitality Management, (3c); Fall 2022, Spring 2023, Fall 2024, Spring 2025

2023-Present: Graduate Lecturer Appointment

- HRTM 876 Internship in Hospitality Management, (3c)
- HRTM 883 Hospitality Financial Management, (3c)
- HRTM 885 Advanced Lodging Operations, (3c)
- HRTM 889 Advanced Event Operations, (3c)
- HRTM 874 Food and Beverage Management, (3c)

Metropolitan Community College, Omaha, NE

Fall 2022, Winter 2023: Instructor; Academic Success Departments

- EXPL 1000 Exploratory Studies, (4.5c)

Fall 2017-Fall 2021: Instructor; Culinary, Hospitality, Horticulture

- CHRM 1550 Customer Service, (3c)
- CHRM 2980 Student Manager, (3c)
- CHRM 2465 Food Service Financial Management, (4.5c)
- CHRM 2410 Marketing and Industry Perspectives, (3c)

Fall 2017-Spring 2021: Instructor; Culinary, Hospitality, Horticulture

- CHRM 1010 Culinary Math, (3c)

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: 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: Sophisticated 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*

- MGMT 405 Organizational Behavior, (4c) Fall 2017-Spring 2018
- HMGT 410 Managing the Customer Experience, (4c) Fall 2017-Spring 2018

PUBLICATIONS

Research

Kosalka, V. (2023) HRTM 483 Hospitality Finance – A Peer Review of Teaching Project Benchmark Portfolio. UNL Faculty Portfolios

Kosalka, V. (2021) Examination of Factors Impacting Culinary Arts Student Persistence. College of Saint Mary ProQuest Dissertations Publishing, [28493729]

eBooks

2018 eBook series (unpublished): VK Education: Event + Wedding Planning

Magazine/Web Articles

May 2024	Nebraska Today: “Painting the town in goodwill”
August 2023	Strictly Business Omaha: “River City Six Feature, Dr. Vernetta Kosalka, Florist of Omaha”
July 2023	Strictly Business Omaha: “Florals and More with The Wedding Planner Omaha: Dr. Vernetta Kosalka”
August 2022	College of Saint Mary’s Journeys Magazine: Graduate Programs, Building Success
2007, 2013, 2020, 2022	Midlands Business Journals
Winter 2017	Omaha Magazine: B2B
2009-2017	Nebraska Wedding Day Magazines

PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED LECTURES

April 2023	Exhibitor: Nebraska Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America Conference, Lincoln, NE
March 2023	Presenter: Women in Science Conference, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, NE

March 2023	Presenter: Women of Color in the Workplace Panel Discussion, College of Saint Mary, Omaha, NE
January 2023	Commissioned Floral Artist: Cathedral Flower Show, Cathedral Art Project, Omaha, NE
October 2021	Presenter: The National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development Annual Fall Virtual Conference, Online
September 2021	Panelist: Metropolitan Community College Student Leadership Conference, Omaha, NE
September 2021	Panelist: National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Omaha Chapter, Omaha, NE
July 2021	Presenter: Academic Advisor's Conference, Metropolitan Community College, "Examination of Factors Impacting Culinary Arts Student Persistence", Omaha, NE
June 2021	Guest Lecturer: Higher Education Customer Service Workshop, Metropolitan Community College, Omaha, NE
May 2021	Presenter: Culinary Arts Management Class-Event Planning Class, Metropolitan Community College, Omaha, NE
December 2020	Keynote Speaker: Winter Commencement Keynote Address, College of Saint Mary, Omaha, NE
October 2019	Mistress of Ceremonies: Student Leadership Conference, Metropolitan Community College, Omaha, NE
October 2017	Presenter: Student Leadership Conference, Metropolitan Community College, "Power of Personal Branding," Student Leadership Conference, Omaha, NE

CERTIFICATIONS/PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

June 2024	American Hotel and Lodging Education Institute (AHLEI) Certified Hospitality Educator, Omaha, NE
July 2023	Participant: International Council on Hotel, Restaurant, and Institutional Education (ICHRIE) Summer Conference, Phoenix, AZ
2022-Present	Participant: Faculty-led Inquiry into Reflective and Scholarly Teaching (FIRST), Lincoln, NE
2021-2022	Participant: Scholarship of Teaching and Learning, Metropolitan Community College, Omaha, NE
August 2021	Attendee: Institute for Career Advancement Women's Conference, Omaha, NE
April 2021	Participant: National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development, Online Conference
2020-Present	Candidate: Certified Meeting Planner, Events Industry Council
May 2019	Instructor (Level 1): National Restaurant Association/American Culinary Federation, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC
2018-Present	Participant: Certified Mental Health First Aid Professional, Metropolitan Community College, Omaha, NE
2017-Present	Participant: Instructor and Proctor: Certified ServeSafe, National Restaurant Association

2017-Present Instructor: Certified ManageFirst Instructor, National Restaurant Association, Omaha, NE
June 2017 Participant: Certified Meeting Planning Professional, Marriott Hotels, New Orleans, LA
May 2007 Participant: Certified Government Meeting Planner Professional, Marriott Hotels
2003 Certified Mixologist: Omaha Bartending School, Omaha, NE

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

2023-Present Director of Industry Relations: Central CHRIE Federation
2023-Present Advisor: Hospitality Student Development Organization, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
2021-2022 Member: Path Forward Career Exploration Committee, Metropolitan Community College
2020-2022 Member: Path Forward Committee, Metropolitan Community College
2018-2022 Member: Hiring Committee, Metropolitan Community College
2020-2022 Member: Culinary Arts Accreditation Committee, Metropolitan Community College
2020-2022 Member: Sustainability Planning Committee, Metropolitan Community College
2019, 2020 Co-Organizer: Student Leadership Conference, Metropolitan Community College
2017-2018 Member: Student Engagement Council Planning Committee, Metropolitan Community College
2019-2022 Advisor: Skills USA, Metropolitan Community College
2018-2022 Board Member: Advisor Board, Metropolitan Community College
2017-2019 Board Member: Advisory Board, Hospitality Management, Bellevue University
2018-2019 Subject Matter Expert: Hospitality Management, Bellevue University

MEMBERSHIPS/COMMUNITY SERVICE

2022-Present Board Member: College of Saint Mary Board of Directors
2022-Present Member: Council on Hotel, Restaurant, and Institutional Education
2022-Present Member: Omaha (NE) Chapter of The Links Incorporated
2022-Present Member: National Center for Faculty Development & Diversity
2022-Present Member: American Hotel Lodging Education Institute Association
2020-Present Member: The National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development
2020-Present Member: Events Industry Council
2020-2022 Member: National Association of Catering Executives
2017-2022 Member: American Culinary Federation
2017-2024 Member: Lauritzen Gardens Guild

2016-2019 Member: Society of American Florist
2013-2019 Board Member: Ralston Chamber
2015-2017 Special Events Chair: Sarpy County Chamber
2004-2016, 2022-2023 Member: Greater Omaha Chamber
2003-Present Member: Delta Sigma Theta Sorority

WORK EXPERIENCE

2022-Present *Assistant Professor of Practice*
University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, NE

2007, 2018-2022 *Banquet & Services Manager, Instructor*
Metropolitan Community College, Omaha, NE

2018-2019 *Adjunct Instructor*
Bellevue University, Bellevue, NE

2014-2016 *Director of Sales & Marketing*
Regency Lodge Omaha, NE

2009-2024 *Owner / Director of Events and Design*
The Wedding Planner Omaha, LLC dba Florist of Omaha

2007-2013 *Assistant General Manager / Director of Sales*
Fairfield Inn & Suites

2005-2007 *Director of Sales & Marketing*
inPlay & Forte Banquet and Conference Center

2004-2005 *Catering & Event Manager*
Sheraton Downtown Omaha

2003-2004 *Catering Administrative Assistant*
Omaha Doubletree Downtown & EMC