Kate Dunlap’s Personal Advising Philosophy

As a TRiO Academic Advisor, I commit to the following for each student I serve:

1. I will strive to establish a collaborative partnership with TRiO Student Support Services students within the Trulaske College of Business.

2. I will connect students with campus resources and opportunities to assist with their academic, financial, personal, and career success.

3. I will encourage persistence and resilience in the face of adversity.

4. I will empower students to achieve their short-term and long-term goals.

Establish a collaborative partnership: I view “collaborative partnerships” as two individuals working together to accomplish a mutual goal. As the TRiO Academic Advisor for students in the Trulaske College of Business, I want to build and support strong working relationships with my students, in order to best support their unique goals. I want my advisees to know that I care about them not only as college students, but as individuals as well.

Connect students with campus resources and opportunities: As a TRiO specific advisor, I aim to fulfill the TRiO Student Support Services mission of, “providing opportunities for academic development, assist students with basic college requirements, and to motivate students toward the successful completion of their postsecondary education,” to the best of my ability. During each advising session, I try to determine which resources a student may benefit from, based on the information they provide me. These resources include but are not limited to: connecting students to individual tutoring sessions through the Learning Center, meetings with their Financial Aid Advisor or the TRiO Financial Counselor, the Counseling Center, the Career Center, the MU International Center, Business Career Services, TRiO-specific workshops, and the TRiO Peer Mentors. By introducing students to campus resources and taking the time to explain their benefits, I hope to give students the knowledge they need to fulfill their academic requirements and career aspirations successfully and confidently.

To encourage persistence and resilience: Students who are first-generation, low-income, and/or have a disability, face unique challenges in college compared to their counterparts who are not in one or more of those special populations. It is crucial that I listen, not to respond but to understand, each student’s experience and validate them. Though my students may face some uphill battles throughout their college careers, I aim to encourage persistence and resilience in the face of adversity.

Empower students: My students are outstanding individuals who have a great deal to contribute to the University and the world. I want to learn what each of their personal and career goals are, both short-term and long-term, so I can advise them to my highest potential. I want to encourage my students to advocate for themselves and understand that it is their responsibility to seek out resources and opportunities throughout their college career. I will do everything in my power to support my students academically and personally, but it is ultimately up to them to take the necessary steps to succeed in college and beyond.