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SEE HIGHER  
EDUCATION

Lavona See brings a unique perspective to independent college consulting. For more than 15 years, she served as in college admissions as an Associate Director of Admission at a nationally-recognized mid-western liberal arts college. See's legacy of work in enrollment management, retention and advising and major-specific recruiting continues to serve as a "how-to" model for the administration. Her "departmentally blind" approach allowed her to focus on the needs of students and the institution at all levels of the enrollment funnel. See was a campus leader who bridged the gap between admission recruitment, retention and institutional marketing.

While working in higher education, See paved the way to streamline specific admission processes and audition/portfolio days for students interested in the arts. These initiatives took her around the country to view and critique high school theatre and music auditions as well as art portfolios. These auditions led to callbacks for potential admission and talent awards. Lavona led the college's charge to recruit talented students from the states of Florida, Texas, California, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Illinois, and Oregon among other states. She has been a member of the Theatre Alliance of Pennsylvania, Texas Educational Theatre Association, Florida Thespian Association and the Ohio Theatre Alliance. See is well-versed in the degree options, career paths and audition preparation requirements of students pursuing the fine arts.

Responding to the needs of prospective students and to the institution, See implemented admission and financial aid processes targeted at assisting and advising transfer students. Her commitment to this population of students led to the creation of a transfer student scholarship and an advocacy/liaison role for transfers when working with the Registrar, the Financial Aid Office and Academic Affairs. Further, See frequently worked with faculty, coaches and administrators to smooth the way for the transferring student. See understands the needs and concerns of the transferring student and is adept at helping him/her feel comfortable and plan for the next educational step.

While serving both the Office of Admission and the Office of Academic Affairs, See was appointed as the Chairperson for the annual Science Lecture Series (SLS). This community-wide and campus event addressed cutting edge science topics and featured lectures and technical sessions led by internationally-known scientists. While designing and implementing a new marketing approach to the SLS, See targeted high school science students and teachers as special participants for this science enrichment opportunity. In addition, she submitted grant requests and secured

multiple corporate sponsors. Securing sponsors allowed See to preserve the college science endowment for future projects. This commitment to the sciences was also evident as See led the college charge to increase the enrollment numbers in chemistry, life science, and physics. Lavona researched and proposed a scholarship program for high school students participating in Zoo Schools (zoo-based science, math and research classes). The creation of a Zoo Scholars Program was approved due to her initiative. Along with committed faculty, See helped the college meet science enrollment goals which led to a campaign and building commitment for new science facilities. Ground was broken in September 2007 and a state-of-the-art facility is now complete for students and faculty and for the advancement of science.

Following her passion for advising and counseling, See continued her service as a nonstop advocate for developmental advising and a student-centered approach to administrative decision-making. Once referred to as both "the offense and the defense" by the Associate Academic Dean, See revitalized faculty advising training and created the A.R.M: Advising Resource Manual for faculty. Her passion to empower both faculty and students in the advising process was a priority. She was an advisor for transfers, undeclared and identified at-risk students.

In 2006-07, Lavona shifted her focus to the high school setting. She led the classroom management of a peer-tutoring program in a high school of more than 1,500 students. During this time, See was able to utilize her one-to-one counseling approach to encourage and engage students with ADD, ADHD and those at-risk to move toward successful time management, developing study skills and address positive personal decision-making. Lavona was also accessible to student peer tutors who often had personal questions and concerns regarding the college admission and financial aid process.

On the professional front, Lavona See is actively involved in the Ohio Association for College Admission Counseling (OACAC). She has served on committees and has presented educational sessions at the state level. See has served on the Executive Board as the Treasurer and currently she is the Executive Assistant of OACAC. Lavona was selected among a field of qualified candidates to serve on a governance committee of the National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC). As a member of the Current Trends and Future Issues Committee, See along with other members, examine critical and curious facets of college admission which need further exploration and national attention. See also holds an associate membership in the Independent Educational Consultants Association (IECA). Lavona also serves as the Chair of the Executive Staff for NACAC's 21 state affiliate organizations.

See is an effective leader in school planning and has been the lead consultant, researcher and facilitator in the school improvement planning process for Trinity Lutheran School in Marysville, Ohio. With a constant eye on progress, improvement and student achievement, See has lead the school improvement planning team to create and execute the school's first School Improvement Plan which aligns curriculum, staff development, communication and physical plant needs with the needs of the 21<sup>st</sup> century student.

In 2009, See was honored with the distinguished award of Life Membership from the Ohio Association for College Admission Counseling. Recently, Lavona has passed the first application phase for the designation of Certified Educational Planner (CEP). She will begin to prepare for an intensive exam leading to the sought after American Institute for CEP credential. Currently, fewer than 250 individuals are CEPs.

Lavona See holds both a B.S.E. and M.A.E. from The Ohio State University. See is a graduate of the IECA Transitioning to Private Practice workshop and has been a student in the University of California, Los Angeles Ext. College Counseling program.

Lavona continues to strive to gain more “college knowledge” to assist students and families in this wonderful journey toward finding the “right match”.

**Personalized Guidance for Educational Planning**

