

Dear Potential Candidate,

I am very pleased that you are considering this opportunity to make a difference on Winthrop's Campus. This is not a venture to be taken lightly. The two people that occupy the President & Vice-President seats on the Council of Student Leaders are advocates, ambassadors, servants, and cheerleaders for our University. It will be time contribution and legacy you can leave on the future of the university.

There are minimum qualifications for holding the position. By signing below, you confirm that the information provided on the Council of Student Leaders applications is, to the best of your knowledge, correct. In addition, you consent the release of confidential data including grade information. You are also aware that any information in this application may be used for promotional or other uses as the Council of Student Leaders sees fit.

*The resume, leadership portfolio, and platform statement as well as the names on the ticket will be posted on the CSL website.

Candidate Release: I consent to the release of confidential information on this application including grade information. The information I provide will be posted so that students may review my application prior to casting their decision.

Electronic Signature Release: Esther Ekundayo 03/10/2023



Esther Ekundayo

803-477-1095

ekundayoe2@winthrop.edu

365 Columbia Avenue, Rock Hill, South Carolina 29730

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/esther-ekundayo-524231>

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Sales proficiency and point of sale knowledge through working 5+ years in the hospitality & retail sector. Quick thinking and adaptable when working in fast-paced environments. Networking expertise, strong communication, diligence, and interpersonal skills. Passionate about management, HR, and organizational leadership.

SKILLS

- Communication
- Leadership
- Teamwork
- Interpersonal
- Technical knowledge
- Hard work ethic

EDUCATION

Expected in 05/2024
Winthrop University | Rock Hill
 Master of Business Administration:
 Human Resources

12/2022
Columbia College | Columbia
 BA: Psychology
 Minor in Leadership Studies, with Honors
 GPA 3.8 - Cum Laude
 PLACE (Philanthropy Leadership And, Community Engagement) Fellow
 Student - Athlete

- 4x Indoor Season Track and Field AAC Conference Champions,
- 2x Outdoor Season Track and Field AAC Conference Champions
- Top 7th Fastest Freshman in the AAC Cross-country conference 2019
- "We Chose Honors" Winner of Spring 2021

REFERENCES

Available upon request

WORK HISTORY

07/2022 - 08/2022

TWIN NCS | London
Team Leader

- A team of up to 16 young people, from various social backgrounds, whilst maintaining a high level of enthusiasm and engagement
- Planned and delivered sessions to my team of young people that allowed them to network, learn and become active members of their community
- Acted as a role model, encouraging the young people to develop inclusive and positive behavior towards others, and address challenging behavior in an effective way

08/2020 - 12/2022

Eden's Library | Columbia, SC
English Writing Tutor

- English Writing Tutor at the Pearce Communication Center, Supported 50+ students each semester to help develop and meet their academic goals in English
- Collaborated with other tutors & professors to create fun and effective educational workshops, particularly for the students
- Always displaying a positive and patient attitude to motivate students when they become frustrated by material they do not understand.

06/2021 - 07/2021

Arras Foundation | Lancaster, South Carolina
Summer Research Intern

- Duties included collaborating on group project presentations and presented research findings.
- Making industry connections through virtual discussions and meetings with the executive board
- Conducting hours of research, qualitative, and quantitative data to create 10-page (minimum) papers.
- Helped students explore concepts through challenging assignments and stimulating class discussions.

08/2020 - 12/2022

Allison Administration Building | Columbia, SC
Financial Aid Advisor

- Counselling clients on financial matters and provided recommendations on how to earn scholarships, FASFA and external loans to pay for their tuition.
- Coordinated with other staff members to provide specialized support to diverse populations with unique needs.
- Handled telephone calls, employee enquiries and complaints, escalating issues to managers when needed.
- Implemented student filing systems to improve administrative efficiency.

09/2018 - 08/2019

Estee Lauder Companies | London

Counter Manager

- Assessed the customer's skin texture, current makeup routine, and desired outcome to identify appropriate services and achieve their desired result
- Created memorable customer experiences by including special services such as free eyeshadow demonstrations
- Upsold additional products and services to increase sales and updated inventory management systems to improve product availability data.

05/2018 - 10/2018

BOXPARK | East London, Shoreditch

Bartender

- Increased bar revenue by sampling and marketing featured cocktails
- Resolved challenging customer complaints to full satisfaction, promoting brand loyalty and maximizing repeat business
- Took customer orders and capitalized on opportunities to sell special beverage and food options
- Managed bar inventory, restocked supplies, and placed orders for spirits, beer, wines, and mixers.

01/2017 - 12/2017

Black Truffle

Sales Assistant

- Handled several calls every day to address customer inquiries and concerns
- Managed quality assurance program, including on-site evaluations, internal audits, and customer surveys
- Used product knowledge, sales abilities and customer relations skills to drive substantial profit increases.

04/2017 - 08/2017

Starbucks | London

Barista

- Learned how to work under pressure, encountering busy peak periods throughout the day and gained stress tolerance as I maintained effective performance under pressure
- Restocked display cases with attractive arrangements to promote specialty food items like coffee roast and pastry
- Provided in-depth information to customers on beverage preparation and offered samples of latest brews.

09/2016 - 01/2017

Argos

Customer Service Advisor

- Answering customer inquiries and responding to customer complaints
- Issuing refunds and handling money
- Ability to remain calm when under pressure
- Making product suggestions and recommendations

LEADERSHIP PORTFOLIO

Esther Ekundayo

1. What goals do you have for the Council of Student Leaders and how will you achieve them?

My first goal would be to acknowledge everyone and make everyone feel inclusive. We are all important and worthy of being respected. I believe everyone should feel comfortable within the space to address any of their concerns, and express how they are feeling. Student input is crucial if Winthrop wants to grow and have a greater number of students. But it is also important for recognizing the mental state of students and making sure they have the best college life experience they could ever have. I would go about achieving this by allowing everyone to have multiple chances to express their thoughts and contribute to team discussions.

Another goal I have is to be accountable for your work. With there being many members of CSL it is important that the work gets distributed evenly, and that people are taking those tasks seriously. If a task does not get completed, I expect members to be mindful of who was associated with that task and have a polite conversation with that person, to understand why. I expect people to communicate with each other when we have things that prevent us from completing our task, so that the progress of the entire group does not regress. I would go about by making a list of the tasks and who's turn it is to complete it, so that people know what they are assigned in they ever forget, and/or the expectations of their job.

The third goal is to be cheerful, encouraging and optimistic! At the end of the day we are all one unit, working together to complete tasks that will enhance the Winthrop college life experience for all. If we lack energy and enthusiasm, this can make tasks feel daunting and challenging, and it can also have a domino effect in terms of how other people behave. The CSL is a great opportunity to strengthen your opportunity to be a leader, so take advantage of the opportunity and have fun whilst doing it!

2. As the Chair/Vice Chair of the Council, you are often in the spotlight and criticized. How do you respond to criticism and what do you take away from it?

I respond very well to criticism. I don't see it as an 'attack' but more so as feedback. And to me, feedback is an opportunity to learn from my mistakes and improve accordingly. Who wouldn't want to thrive to be the best individual they can be? If criticism allows me to become a wiser individual, then I will take as much of it as I can, and more.

If elected as Chair of the Council, I am aware that there will be many instances where I will be spotlighted and critiqued, but I am ready. I consider myself an open-minded individual, willing to hold myself accountable for my mistakes and lead with active

listening. To understand the underlying message within criticism may not always be easy, however I am willing to ask questions where I don't understand to ensure both parties are on the same page.

Part of any prestigious leadership position is accepting criticism, and I am willing to embrace this expectation with open arms.

3. What do you believe is your greatest strength and weakness when it comes to leadership?

My greatest strength is that I am a strong communicator. This is because I enjoy meaningful conversations that allow me to gain insight into other people's perspectives. An example of this is that I am always active listening and ask questions when unsure.

My weakness would be that I am a perfectionist, and I focus too much on the details. This is a weakness because in reality not everything can be achieved in the way I want it to, but as long as I try my best and put in the effort that's what matters most.

4. Detail a time that a group was under your leadership and how you lead them and resolved any conflicts that arose. How did you lead, and how did they respond?

When I worked as an RA (Resident's Assistant) during my junior year, it was my responsibility to ensure that my residents were updated with new information, following school policies and living cordially with the other residents.

There was a time when a group of residents were having conflict over their living situation. The bathroom was constantly dirty and disorganized, and it was only ever 1 person out of the 4 of them who ended up doing the cleaning each week. Because established boundaries were not set, the girls had begun to get in each other's way causing them to bump heads. Constant resentment built up to the point where the roommates were reluctant to even communicate with each other, and express their concerns - and this was where I stepped in.

I gathered the roommates round for a meditation. This gave them the opportunity to speak freely, given that they were respectful to each other. I got them to make a list of do's and don'ts that they would abide by whenever in a shared area. Then, I gave them a chore chart I had created and asked them to fill out what chore they wanted to do each week, and by whom. There was an option to tick once the chore had been done so that everyone could see what was completed and be held accountable if it wasn't. This was a great strategy and one that allowed a cordial environment between the residents. The residents liked this idea because they could view the chart whenever they needed reminding of their responsibilities for that week.

5. You have heard that Winthrop University students want to decorate their graduation caps, but administration has firmly said no. How would you go about addressing the issue with students and administration?

I believe it is important to uphold both the values of the students as well as the policies of the school, so for a situation like this, a compromise is needed where both parties are heard and respected.

The school has policies put in place for the safety of the students. In this case, the school may decide to not allow students to decorate their graduation caps because conflict can arise if inappropriate or offensive language is displayed on students' graduation caps.

However, one may argue that need's of the students is just as important, because by decorating their graduation caps allows them to express themselves and celebrate the most pivotal moment in their college career.

If I were to be elected onto the CSL, I would look into all areas of concern from the administration's request to not have students decorate their cap, and find a resolution to it. For example, if the reason being is to prevent inappropriate content from being displayed at the graduation, then I would ask those who are willing to have their caps decorated, be reviewed by administration for approval, prior to the date of graduation. Only those granted permission would be allowed to wear their decorated cap on graduation. By doing so this compromise is effective, and both parties heard.

TICKET PLATFORM STATEMENT

As Gandhi once said “Be the change you want to see in the world”. Change is an unstoppable journey that is not always easy to deal with. As inevitable as change can be, one thing is for certain - and that is the ability to make decisions that can positively impact the course of your future.

Which is why we aim to drive change and promote action. We want your concerns to not only be heard but to be acted upon. We believe everyone should feel comfortable enough to address their concerns, and express how they are feeling. Your student input is crucial and we want to hear it! But most importantly we aspire to drive for change to ensure that you get the best college life experience you could ever have.

One of the things that we want to help students with, would be dealing with stress. We would host monthly events to make sure students are properly dealing with stress in a healthy way. A “Destress Fest” where students would have the opportunity to exhale, and would receive items like stress balls, mediation journals, bath bombs, and more. Students would also be able to make crafts, play games and enjoy the company of their peers.

Additionally, we would want to implement an “Eagle Boutique” which would give students the opportunity to donate or gain from a plethora of items such as clothes, shoes, books, school supplies, and more. Students, faculty, and the community would be able to donate items and receive items, free of charge. What a great way to upcycle old clothing, and create a sustainable environment.

We want to make Winthrop a better and more inclusive place for all. So help us, help you make Winthrop the college of your dreams.

Vote #change.