

Pepper Michaela Lopez, MS

4163 Williams Street Eureka, CA 95503

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peppermlopez@gmail.com

Objective and Competency:

Obtain a position advocating for student equity in a holistic and empowering manner, utilizing effective counseling skills, and informed by an understanding of diversity based on a graduate education and my lenses of experience as a transgender woman of color and social justice advocate

LINKEDIN: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/pepper-michaela-lopez-b5215171/>

STUDENT AFFAIRS PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCIES: <https://peppermlopez.weebly.com/>

Professional Experience:

Yurok Tribe – Yurok Wellness Court [YWC]: Eureka, CA

Wellness Court Coordinator · November 2022 to current

- Interface with the Humboldt Co. state court for the YWC to address the pending charges of Yurok tribal members
- Create guidelines and forms to facilitate all inpatient, outpatient or aftercare substance treatment programs
- Moderated staff meetings for YWC and outside agencies regarding participants' treatment progress and stability
- Draft case plans and manage caseloads, counsel, monitor, and perform SUD testing for participants in the YWC
- Participate as the YWC representative and support team member in the DHHS CWS Joint Jurisdiction Family Court
- Interface with attorneys, probation officers, and Humboldt Co. state judges regarding a client's case plan progress

Wellness Diversion Case Worker · August 2021 to November 2022

- Draft case plans and manage caseload of clients participating in the YWC Diversion Wellness programs
- Facilitate achievement of case plan goals through regular meetings, counseling clients, and SUD testing
- Participate as a tribal representative and treatment team member in the DHHS CWS Joint Jurisdiction Family Court
- Attend Humboldt County state hearings and YWC Tribal hearings as well as coordination with Adult Probation

Employment Development Department [EDD] – Workforce Services: Eureka, CA

Employment Program Representative · September 2020 to August 2021

- Implement the functions of the Wagner-Peysner [W-PA] Act of 1933, the Workforce Investment Act [WIA] of 1998, and the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act [WIOA] of 2014 and provide services to job seekers and employer at the America's Job Center of California [AJCC], The Job Market, locally in Eureka and Humboldt County
- Assist job seekers and employers with self-service through CalJOBS, staff assisted services, or individual services for those with special needs such as veterans, youths, or those facing employment challenges demographically
- Collaborate with EDD Workforce Services Staff, Humboldt County Economic Development, and local non-profit partnership agencies to provide expanded services to the businesses and job seekers of Eureka and Humboldt County to enrich the local job market by connecting both employers and quality employees
- Present workshops on various job skills and services such as interviewing, resume building, and job search skills
- Collaboratively innovate with the EDD Workforce services staff to develop virtual training alternatives due to the restriction imposed on in-person services during the 2020 Covid-19 pandemic

Humboldt County Department of Health & Human Services – Child Welfare Services: Eureka, CA

Social Worker IV · September 2019 to February 2020

- Manage ongoing assigned case plans completing all documentation related to the Child Welfare Court system
- Counsel and support clients in regard to addressing and mitigating safety and harm in relation to their dependents
- Coordinate and conduct monthly child welfare contacts for families, children, and collateral and stakeholders
- Create effective case and contingency plans regarding family reunification and substitute care provider placement
- Record all supervised caseload notes and documents within Child Welfare's CMS national database, and all safety assessments in WebSDM and SafeMeasures
- Prepare court and required documentation for managed caseload as an ongoing child welfare Social Worker IV

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University of California Santa Cruz [UCSC]: Santa Cruz, CA

Reservations Coordinator · November 2018 to February 2019

- Coordinate calendars for the reservable presentation and meeting spaces at Stevenson and Cowell Colleges
- Partner with student groups culturing the delivery of their events as a learning experience while assuring compliance with the Student Success Major Event Policy and the policies of the Stevenson Event Center
- Manage the program staging requirements for the Stevenson Event Center
- Provide precise logistical deliverable work scopes of the technical needs for all events of the Stevenson Event Center to the student technical crew leads and technical staff
- Supervise and train the student Stevenson Technical Crew staff, manage staff schedules, and approve time cards
- Accounting for billable hours of venues to presentation organizers for technical staff as the event center supervisor

University of California Division of Agricultural and Natural Resources [UCANR]

UC Cooperative Extension [UCCE]: Butte County · Oroville, CA

Community Education Specialist II · January 2017 to April 2018

- Demonstrated direct education UC CalFresh nutrition, physical activity, and gardening curriculum to assigned target elementary schools
- Communicate and build relationships with target school administrators, faculty, and staff
- Design toolkits for UC CalFresh curricula as appropriate to develop the Butte County teacher extender model
- Collect data regarding the implementation of the program curricula and enter in the online research portal, PEARS
- Purchase materials for the program needs, manage two UC Davis cards, master the UCD reimbursement system; AggieTravel, a propriety travel and reimbursement program created by Concur Travel for UC Davis

University of the West [UWest]: Rosemead, CA

Enrollment Assistant · December 2012 to March 2014

- Authored and presented the UWest co-curricular outreach program for high school and transfer students
- Presented on sexual orientation and gender diversity training with the Los Angeles LGBT Center for the staff at University of the West, and “Safe Zone” certified
- Developed a mission statement for the Office of Admissions at UWest, defined that office’s student learning objectives, and the created documentation to bring it into adherence with the current CAS standards
- Contributed to exceeding the semester admission goals in all terms while serving in the enrollment office
- Contributed to the development of UWest’s first academic advising program while serving on the retention and persistence committee producing a fully budgeted dual model academic advising proposal for adoption
- Mastered the university’s student database system, Campus Vue, to process and input applications for incoming students while securing and maintaining the confidentiality of sensitive student information

ITT Technical Institute [ITT Tech]: West Covina, CA

Community Relations Specialist · October 2010 to December 2012

- Presented to and counseled high school students about the importance of defining their post-secondary educational interests, discussed college success, and the related challenges faced by first generation students
- Built relationships and served as college representative to counselors, faculty, and administrators in numerous socio-economically disadvantaged high school districts, and served as liaison to community and civic leaders
- Placed ITT Technical Institute West Covina in top 15% of its campuses nationally for high school applications

Representative · January 2008 to October 2010

- Counseled students in regard to their post-secondary education and career goals and interests
- Received a performance based promotion for consistently achieving student retention and persistent rates of 75%

Education:

2014 Azusa Pacific University [APU] · **Masters of Science [MS] in College Counseling and Student Development**

1987 University of California Santa Cruz [UCSC] · **Bachelors of Arts [BA] in Theater Arts**