From Wildland Firefighter to P.E. Teacher to USU Southwest's Newest Advisor

USU-Southwest
02/15/2018

Utah State University Southwest hired Ashley Dyreng as an advising assistant. Her core responsibility is helping students through registration, financial aid, class scheduling, scholarship opportunities and more, ensuring they graduate efficiently and on time.

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Trying to figure out what you want to major in and your career path can be a windy road, and it’s one Dyreng has personal experience with. While studying at Snow College, she worked for the Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management as a wildland firefighter, and then took a job as a Physical Education teacher. After Snow, she transferred to USU in Logan where she ultimately decided to pursue a career in school counseling.

“My experience before USU was a bit hectic, but helped lead me to where I am now,” said Dyreng. “It was at USU where I decided to pursue a career in school counseling, so I started working toward a bachelor’s in psychology.”

Her advisor played a major role in helping her create an education plan to ensure she wasn’t wasting time. Before graduating, she and her husband moved back to Sanpete, but she was able to continue her degree thanks to USU’s Regional Campus system in the Southwest. She started her graduate degree in school counseling at USU-Ephraim fall 2017.

When she’s not studying or working, she is with her husband and two children on the farm with their dog Todd. The outdoors are an important outlet for them, and they make sure they still are able to get outside as much as possible, despite having such a busy schedule. This is one of the major benefits of working with an advisor that isn’t commonly discussed: advisors help you manage your time more not just so you can finish school quickly, but also so you can continue doing things you love outside of class.

If you haven’t already, reach out to an advisor today and let them help you excel through college. Advisors like Dyreng have a lot of experience navigating the rigors of higher education and are willing to sit down and help you have a positive experience. To schedule an appointment with Dyreng, visit https://www.usu.edu/campuses/advising/ and select your campus.

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3. 2018

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