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Goal Statement and Writing Sample

I stumbled into a career in higher education. More than twenty years later, I am no longer stumbling but making conscious and thoughtful decisions about my future. I am excited by the success of students achieving their goals of obtaining college degrees. For this reason, I want to pursue a Doctor of Education to ensure my continued opportunity to positively influence the lives of students.

As a first-generation college student working toward my bachelor's degree in the mid-1980s, I held a work-study position in the Office of Student Financial Assistance. The director became my mentor and influenced my decision to pursue a career in higher education. I continued to work in the field of financial aid for several years. I gained the respect of my supervisors and co-workers who encouraged me to continue my education and increase my opportunities for advancement. My master's degree unexpectedly, but not surprisingly, opened more than one door for me. With confidence, I have been able to walk through those doors and accept the challenges ahead of me. As my positions have advanced, I have continued to have exceptional supervisors and co-workers who have continued to mentor and guide me. I want the opportunity to pay that forward.

Higher education administrators have the ability to create and change policies and programs that influence the nature of the educational experience for thousands of students. Sometime in the future, I hope that Marshall University will implement a Freshman College. I would like the opportunity to play an essential role in the creation and implementation of that college and have the skills and credentials to become Dean. I hope to remain at Marshall University for many more years, but I know that life circumstances may change that path.

Having a doctoral degree will open doors at Marshall and, if necessary, other educational institutions where I can continue to positively impact students.

Each University employee plays a role in the retention, satisfaction and success of our student population. Achieving a doctoral degree provides the groundwork for me to be the best administrator and educator I can be and it provides me with the occasion to influence other members in the campus community. I am diligent and proactive in my job responsibilities and I make every effort to lead by example and encourage my staff members and my co-workers to exhibit the same behavior.

After several months of serving as interim, I recently settled into the position of Director of University College, my first academic position. Exploring and discovering the academic workings within the University has fueled my desire to pursue the doctoral degree and learn more about opportunities where I can make valuable contributions. I believe that I can be a successful student in the doctoral program because I am both professionally and personally motivated to obtain the degree. I have always valued education and I believe that I should take advantage of the opportunity to enhance my credentials. I also believe that this is the appropriate time in my life for this challenge. My only daughter is currently establishing her independence as a college student and my husband and I have settled into a lifestyle that will allow the time commitment required for this program. I have exceptional organization and prioritization skills to meet the challenges of home life, work and school.

In a few years, when I walk across the stage at commencement and receive my doctoral diploma and hood, I will stand with relief and joy. I will understand the path behind me and, most importantly, the path ahead. Increased position implies increased responsibility. I will be ready to meet that challenge.