KERRY LYNN LEVETT

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Ascend Higher Educational Partners, Portland, OR

We are a strategic partner for higher education, helping leaders find clarity in complexity and chart bold paths forward. We believe every successful journey is built on strategy, equity, and the conviction that transformation is essential. Ascend Higher Educational Partners offers individual, group facilitation, project management, topical conversations, and grant development and management.

Founder *August 2025–present*

I founded this nationally engaged consultancy with a commitment to supporting colleges and universities in their efforts toward strategic transformation, equity-focused redesign, and institutional growth. My approach integrates visionary leadership with meticulous operational execution, enabling client institutions to refine their mission, enhance student outcomes, and cultivate inclusive campus environments.

In my capacity as Founder, I serve as both chief strategist and active collaborator—leading meaningful organizational change and elevating the firm's mission and profile. Key responsibilities include fostering partnerships and client relationships, overseeing operations, and contributing thought leadership within the higher education community.

Cascadia College, Bothell, WA

Cascadia College serves the Redmond-Bothell region as a small comprehensive community college serving approximately 3000 students. Cascadia College is a leader in dual enrollment and academic transfer. Cascadia College is uniquely co-located with the University of Washington Bothell where the majority of our students transfer. We lead with innovative diverse programming including sustainability, American Indian Studies and a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science.

Vice President for Student Learning and Success (Chief Academic Officer) *August 2018–July 2025*

Reporting to the President, I served as the college's chief academic and student affairs officer, providing executive leadership for instruction, student success, and institutional effectiveness. I oversaw academic programs, curriculum, assessment, faculty development, enrollment management, and student services. As our Accreditation Liaison Officer, I was responsible for compliance, institutional reporting, continuous improvement, and maintaining our accreditation.

Key Accomplishments:

- Spearheaded reversing a 5-year enrollment decline by launching targeted initiatives such as a bi-annual, multi-quarter registration model for students.
- Launched Guided Pathways implementation and built a disaggregated student data infrastructure and a Student Success Council, driving equity-focused improvement in student outcomes.
- Negotiated three successful collective bargaining agreements as the administrative lead with the local faculty union.
- Collaborated with the Vice President for Inclusion, Community and Access to launch Cascadia Academy, a $200,000 ARPA-funded partnership with Inglemoor High School and the City of Kenmore, building a college-going culture and addressing learning gaps for local high school students.
- As chair of the SBCTC Instructional Commission Transfer Committee, and Co-chair of the Joint Transfer Council (a state-wide collective of 3 higher educational sectors and 4 state agencies), facilitated the process for modifying the state-wide transfer degree to improve student outcomes by collaborating with three higher education sectors and four state agencies.
- Facilitated launching innovative academic programs including American Indian Studies and a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science.
- Collaborated with University of Washington Bothell executive leadership through shared decision-making on the planning and funding strategy for an innovative and sustainable shared STEM building.
- Created the Supervisor Community of Practice, a monthly forum for supervisors across divisions that improved supervisory consistency and organizational health college-wide.

Lane Community College, Eugene, OR

Lane Community is a large comprehensive community college primarily serving Lane County, OR. Lane Community College is the proud home to KLCC, a nationally renowned public radio station and a charter member of NPR. The college also has a tribal longhouse, and hosts one of the largest powwows in the Pacific Northwest, making it a place with a strong commitment to serving its diverse community.

Executive Dean – Student Affairs

August 2013–July 2018

Reporting to the President, I provided college-wide leadership, vision, and direction to Student Affairs and Enrollment areas including admissions, Child and Family Education, counseling and advising, Center for Accessible Resources, enrollment and student financial services, financial aid, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, student life and leadership, Women's Center – Gender Equity Center, Multicultural Center, Student Government, student standards, Title IX, TRiO programs, and Veteran support services.

Key accomplishments:

- Envisioned and collaborated with staff and faculty to establish the first Gender Equity Center in Oregon by expanding the mission of an existing long-standing Women's Program.
- Established the inaugural chapter of the National Society for Leadership and Success at Lane Community College and served as the advisor for three years.
- Facilitated the creation and implementation of a strategic enrollment management plan and established a weekly "Enrollment Huddle" collaborative that successfully decreased non-registered students from 800 to 200 within 2 months.
- Reconstructed the student affairs division focused on enhancing student success by reorganizing key staff into new teams, creating new opportunities for collaboration with partners, improving campus-wide communication, and reimagining our service mindset.
- Secured multiple grants advancing student success including the Guided Pathways Grant, Oregon Association of Community Colleges, Student Success Center, (2018, $25,000), AVON Foundation, Bystander Invention Program (2014-2015, $5,000) and the National Society for Student Leadership and Success (2014-2015, $2,800).

Finger Lakes Community College, Canandaigua, NY

Finger Lakes Community College (FLCC) is a mid-size comprehensive community college situated in the Finger Lakes region of New York. FLCC is well known as an excellent destination for students seeking transfer as well as for unique academic programs including Natural Resources Conservation, Viticulture and Wine Technology, and Horticulture, which reflects agricultural and scenic environment of the Finger Lakes region. FLCC operates several specialized facilities that support its unique programs, including the Muller Field Station for outdoor education and the FLCC Viticulture and Wine Center.

Associate Vice President of Student Affairs

July 2009–July 2012

Reporting to the Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs, I provided leadership, vision, and direction to Student Affairs areas including community standards, Project Success (TRiO), student life, student health, The Center for Advisement and Personal Development, Veteran Support Services.

Key accomplishments:

- Pioneered the process for developing student-generated class assessment rubrics, serving as the lead author and investigator for a Classroom Reach Grant: Teacher vs. Student Generated Rubrics in face-to-face and online classes. The Teaching and Learning Center of Finger Lakes Community College (2011).
- Secured FLCC's first TRIO grant — a $660,000 Project Success award from the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Postsecondary Education — serving as Principal Author and Program Lead to develop a student success program supporting low-income and first-generation students.
- Established and facilitated the initial multi-disciplinary student intervention team designed for triage and rapid response to critical student issues and concerns.
- Collaborated with the local Veterans Administration to launch on campus student Veteran services.
- Initiated a parent support program providing in-person and online services and just-in-time information for parents and families.
- Collaborated with college, community, and student stakeholders to develop and implement a college-wide retention plan focused on identifying specific student sub-populations and strategically allocating resources to improve their educational outcomes and overall retention rates.

Hilbert College, Hamburg, NY

Hilbert College is a small, 4-year liberal-arts college affiliated with the Franciscan branch of the Catholic Church. Grounded in Franciscan values, the college's curriculum emphasizes social justice, service, and respect. This foundation is reflected in many of its programs and campus initiatives. Hilbert College is particularly known for its highly regarded Criminal Justice program, and other popular fields like Forensic Science, Business, and Human Services.

Director of Residence Life & Judicial Affairs *September 2004–May 2009*

Reporting to the Vice President for Student Affairs, I served as the senior housing and student conduct officer for the college, responsible for all management, resources, and decisions impacting student housing and student conduct matters.

Key accomplishments:

- Implemented a student learning outcome-based academic support program in the Residence community, increasing resident rates from 82-110%, and improving overall resident GPA by .5.
- Pioneered a peer "live-in" academic coach model support first year resident students.
- Initiated collaborative inter-divisional approach to first year experience and Students in Transition.
- Facilitated the establishment of the college-wide Students in Transition Committee targeting needs of first year and transfer students.
- Co-author and team member for "First Year and Beyond", establishing college foundations program for first year students, U.S. Department of Education, Office of Postsecondary Education, Title III programs. (2008-2013).
- Transformed the student conduct process from a legalistic model to an educational framework employing an equity lens, fostering student accountability and personal development.

Head Coach, Women's Softball *2006–2009*

Assistant Coach, Women's Softball *2005–2006*

Key accomplishment:

- Infused academic success into softball program resulting in highest team grade-point average in the college as well as several individual academic player awards.

W. P. Carey School of Business, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ

The W. P. Carey School of Business at Arizona State University stands out for its unique blend of scale, innovation, and academic excellence. As one of the largest business schools in the U.S. with over 23,000 students and a vast global alumni network, it offers an exceptional breadth of resources and specialized programs. This includes highly-ranked disciplines like supply chain management, business analytics, information systems, and accounting.

Assistant to the Director of Undergraduate Engagement *2003–2004*

Supported the Director and program specifically focused on improving student engagement and retention.

Key accomplishments:

- Coordinated the launch of systematic School of Business program assessments.
- Implemented peer benchmarking assessment of business student engagement.

Cook College, Tempe, AZ

Cook College and Theological School, a small private interdenominational Christian College is known for its unique historical role in providing theological foundations and general education to Native Americans and global Indigenous peoples. Although the College closed in 2008, the College's Foundation continues the college's legacy by providing grants and support to grassroots Native communities, churches, and organizations.

Faculty Member and Program Coordinator *1999–2003*

Dean of Student Life *2001–2003*

Reporting to the President, I served as the Department Chair for Christian Education Program (associate's level) and the founding Dean of Student Life.

Key accomplishments:

- Developed and launched an associate degree program in Christian Education.
- Designed and implemented the College's inaugural FYE (First Year Experience) program utilizing an Academic Coach to develop self-efficacy for at-risk students.

- Secured grants and donations for a student food pantry, educational learning lab, and equipment for recreational softball team.
- Formulated and implemented crisis and emergency management procedures and policies including those in response to 9/11.
- Learned to play the Native American flute, co-learning with my students.

EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE

Doctor of Education in Higher and Postsecondary Education, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ — 2011

Master of Arts in Education, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs, CO — 1995

Bachelor of Arts, Westminster College, New Wilmington, PA — 1990

AI x Design Thinking Certificate, IDEO U — 2026

LEADERS Institute, American Association for Women in Community Colleges — 2015

Aspiring Leaders, Lane Community College, Eugene, OR — 2014-2015

Alice J. Manicur Symposium for Women Aspiring to be Senior Student Affairs Officers — 2006

Sponsored by NASPA (Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education) & The Center for Scholarship, Research and Professional Development for Women

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Northwest Commission on Colleges and University, Accreditation Peer Evaluator — 2020-present

State Board of Community and Technical Colleges, Instructional Commission — 2020-2025

Executive Member, Vice Chair, Chair, Past Chair, and Chair of the Transfer Committee, and Joint Transfer Committee.

American Association of Women in Community Colleges, Vice President of Professional Development — 2017-2023

Journal of College Student Retention: Research, Theory, and Practice, Peer Reviewer — 2012-present

Journal of Student Affairs Research and Practice, Peer Reviewer — 2015-present

Finger Lakes Community College, Academic Assessment Committee Member — 2010-2012

Served as a committee member establishing manageable and impactful assessment processes across each academic division.

Hilbert College, Student Life Research & Assessment Division Coordinator — 2005-2009

Initiated and developed a comprehensive assessment and evaluation plan for all departments in Student Life, as well as the division. Provided group and individual instruction and support to department directors in understanding how to use student learning outcomes effectively. Oversaw collection and analysis of data. Completed reports for administration, accrediting bodies and other stakeholders. Worked with the Director of Institutional Research and the Outcomes Assessment Committee to coordinate assessment activities across the campus.

American College Personnel Association: Commission on Assessment for Student Development — 2007-2009, Directorate Member

ACPA Assessment Directorate, Research Grant Competition Project Director — 2005-2006

Established guidelines for the Research Grant Competition. Developed contact list of graduate Student Affairs and Higher Education programs. Disseminated competition information to prospective participants. Recruited and trained competition evaluators. Reviewed evaluators' reports for consistency and errors. Communicated process and award winners with Directorate Chair.

W. P. Carey School of Business, Office of Engagement, ASU, Tempe, AZ, Undergraduate Business — 2003-2004, Student Engagement Research Project Coordinator

Conducted a qualitative research project exploring unique engagement practices at peer schools of business. Identified peer programs. Conducted document analysis of engagement practices. Created and presented report on results.

Coordinator, “Student learning outcomes and experience research project,” Office of Student Life, ASU West, Phoenix, AZ — Summer 2004

Developed the process for establishing student learning outcomes. Trained the office professional staff in understanding the purpose and uses of learning outcomes as well as how to create and implement an effective student learning outcomes plan.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Bothell-Kenmore Chamber of Commerce member, Bothell, WA — 2024-2025

Boy Scouts of America, Eugene OR & Mill Creek, WA — 2015-2020, Cub Scout Leader: Den Leader, Cub Master

Westminster Presbyterian Church, Eugene, OR — 2015-2018, Church Elder, Sunday School teacher

RECOGNITION AND AWARDS

The Oregon Women in Higher Education, “She Flies by Her Own Wings” award, sole recipient — 2018

League of Innovation in the Community College, “Innovation of the Year”, team member — 2013-2014, Lane Community College

Hilbert College, employee Star Award, recipient — 2008

Hilbert College, “Making a Difference” recipient — 2006

RECENT PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

Levett, K.L., LIFTing our Supervisors, AAWCC National Fall Conference, 2025.

Levett, K.L., Chartering Smart(her) Professional Pathways, AAWCC Oregon Fall HER Conference, 2021.

Levett, K.L., Poston-Travis, C. Building a Community Network Addressing Basic Inequities, American Association of Community Colleges, 2019.