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Featuring: Allie Brown, Recruitment Coordinator for Oklahoma State University

How has being a TACAC member been beneficial to you and your career?

TACAC has been beneficial to me both personally and professionally. I've met many people who are a whole lot smarter than me. When I've encountered a problem, these folks have helped me brainstorm solutions and see things from different perspectives. TACAC – but more importantly, the people in it – have helped challenge me and encouraged me to grow.

What do you think are the most important qualities for success to you and your career?

I once had a mentor tell me to surround yourself with people who have completely differing opinions than you. When you're around people who always agree with you, it's easy to think each decision you make is the "right" one. When you're surrounded by people who challenge you and encourage you to look critically at an issue, you usually meet somewhere in the middle and have an even better solution.

How do you balance work life and personal life?

I think a work life balance looks a little bit different for everyone. This may be shocking, but I have not stayed in higher education for 12 years because of the salary. One of the benefits I receive is vacation days. If that's the case for you, TAKE THEM! I haven't worked on a Friday in years and it's a great way for me to unplug and recharge. Find what energizes you and make time for it!

What are your future aspirations for your career?

I've joked over and over again that I am not a lifer in higher education but I absolutely love what I do and don't plan on leaving any time soon. I've shared with several of you that my dad grew up in poverty. He was offered an "athletic" scholarship to bowl in college and he'll tell anyone that his college education is what turned his life around. I've been able to experience firsthand the impact that education made in my family. My long-term career goal is to keep helping get kids to college. That's the part of my job that I love – seeing students invest in themselves.