

Laura Fitzgerald, EdD

Student Affairs Leadership | Student Success & Engagement | Institutional Effectiveness | Organizational Strategy

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Professional Summary

Higher education leader with 10+ years of progressively responsible experience advancing student success, engagement, well-being, leadership development, and institutional effectiveness across complex university environments. Experienced in leading student-centered programs and operations, developing professional and student staff, managing budgets and resources, and building cross-functional partnerships that advance belonging, persistence, and institutional priorities. Demonstrated strength in assessment and data-informed decision-making, including developing evaluation frameworks and using student voice and outcomes data to strengthen programs and inform continuous improvement. Doctor of Education in Organizational Leadership with experience advising senior leaders and governance bodies, supporting accreditation and institutional assessment, and fostering inclusive, student-centered environments.

Executive Leadership Profile

- More than 10 years of progressively responsible higher education experience spanning student affairs, student engagement, leadership development, wellness and recreation, orientation, student governance, and student success initiatives
- Experience leading complex student affairs operations, professional and student staff, budgets, large-scale programs, and cross-functional initiatives aligned with institutional priorities
- Demonstrated ability to develop staff and student leaders through clear expectations, accountability, coaching, performance management, and leadership development
- Strength in assessment and data-informed improvement, including development of evaluation strategies, metrics, and reporting used to strengthen programs and support institutional decision-making
- Collaborative leader experienced in partnering with senior administrators, academic leaders, faculty, students, and campus stakeholders to advance belonging, persistence, student success, and organizational effectiveness
- Experience contributing to institutional accreditation, strategic planning, shared governance, risk management, and continuous improvement

Education

MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY

Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership and Organizational Innovation

- Dissertation published in ProQuest: Empowering Undergraduate Student Government Leaders: A Participatory Qualitative Study on Coaching, the GROW Model, and Leadership Development

ADELPHI UNIVERSITY

Master of Science, Exercise Physiology

LONG ISLAND UNIVERSITY

Bachelor of Arts, Management

Middle States Commission On Higher Education (MSCHE)

ST. JOHN FISHER UNIVERSITY | Standard V Working Group [2024–2025]

- Contributed to institutional accreditation review by evaluating evidence related to educational effectiveness, student learning, and continuous improvement and collaborating with university stakeholders to support accreditation reporting and identify opportunities for institutional improvement

Leadership & Professional Service

INTERNATIONAL COACHING FEDERATION (ICF)

President - Elect, Upstate NY Chapter [January 2025–Present]

- Elected executive board leader contributing to organizational governance, strategic planning, board development, organizational capacity, member engagement, and chapter wide -strategic initiatives

Professional Development & Certifications

PERFORMANCE CONSULTANTS INTERNATIONAL

- Group Mentor Coaching 2026

INTERNATIONAL COACHING FEDERATION

- Associate Certified Coach (ACC) credential in progress

Core Competencies

Student Affairs Leadership | Student Success, Persistence & Retention | Strategic Planning
Institutional Effectiveness & Assessment | Team Leadership & Staff Development | Budget & Fiscal
Management | Student Engagement & Leadership Development | Student Well-Being | Cross-Functional
Collaboration | Shared Governance | Risk Management & Compliance | Data-Informed Improvement

Technology

Microsoft 365 (PowerPoint, Excel, Word, Teams) | Google Workspace | Qualtrics | Banner | Campus
Labs/Baseline | Presence | Brightspace | Blackboard | Zoom | Canva | Canvas

Professional Experience

ST. JOHN FISHER UNIVERSITY

Director of Student Engagement and Leadership [Oct. 2022-April 2025]

- Provided strategic leadership for university-wide student engagement, leadership development, student governance, and student success initiatives aligned with institutional priorities
- Oversaw 70+ student organizations, Student Government Association, leadership development, orientation, and institution-wide engagement initiatives serving a diverse student population
- Supervised and developed two professional staff and 80+ student leaders, establishing clear performance expectations, accountability structures, development plans, and ongoing coaching to strengthen individual and organizational effectiveness
- Directed large-scale campus programs and orientation initiatives requiring cross-functional planning, stakeholder coordination, operational leadership, and risk management
- Managed \$100,000+ in departmental operating budgets, including forecasting, allocation strategy, vendor coordination, and fiscal compliance
- Led assessment and continuous improvement efforts using qualitative and quantitative data to evaluate student engagement, leadership development, and student success outcomes and identify opportunities for programmatic improvement
- Developed evaluation frameworks, metrics, and reports that translated student experience and outcomes data into actionable recommendations for program improvement and institutional decision -making
- Advised senior university leadership and student governance bodies on student engagement, shared governance, organizational effectiveness, and student leadership
- Collaborated across academic and administrative divisions to advance student success, belonging, retention, and institutional priorities

KEUKA COLLEGE

Director for Student Leadership and Engagement [Apr. 2022-Sept. 2022]

- Led strategy and operations for student engagement across residential and commuter student populations
- Oversaw campus activities, student organizations, leadership programs, and retention-focused initiatives
- Managed departmental operations, professional and student staffing, payroll, and programming budgets
- Partnered cross-functionally with academic and institutional leaders to strengthen student engagement, belonging, persistence, and retention

Director of Campus Recreation [Jan. 2022-Apr. 2022]

- Oversaw recreation programs, intramurals, sports clubs, and wellness initiatives
- Managed budget, payroll, and supervision of professional and student staff
- Integrated wellness programming into orientation and first-year experience efforts

STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

Assistant Director of Fitness & Wellness [Nov. 2016-Jan. 2022]

- Directed comprehensive fitness and wellness programming serving a campus population of 10,000+ students within a large, complex public university environment
- Supervised and developed 50+ student employees, overseeing performance management, training, scheduling, and payroll operations
- Managed an \$80,000 annual operating budget and payroll processes, supporting effective resource allocation and fiscal accountability
- Increased student engagement by 20% through innovative hybrid programming during COVID-19
- Served as staff advisor to the campus chapter of Sigma Delta Tau, providing executive board mentorship, risk management oversight, event approval, and alignment with campus and national compliance standards
- Partnered across departments to advance student well-being, belonging, and mental health initiatives and connect students with campus resources and support