

My name is Justine Belda and I am a graduate of Southern Connecticut State University, class of 2015. I am currently pursuing my Masters at Eastern Connecticut State University, I am also interning in the Academic Services Center as an Academic Advisor. As an advisor, I predominately advise first-year and second-year students as they navigate their academic journey at Eastern. This has been the most rewarding position because I am able to connect with a variety of students on campus. I feel as though my academic and social guidance is creating a difference in how my students regard their college experience.

Learning within the Connecticut State University System has not only been inside the classroom, but also through a work perspective. I enjoyed my experience during my undergraduate time and I believe through that experience I am able to better relate to my advisees. Every day I get the opportunity to speak with students and support them to realize their full potential. This internship has helped me reflect from when I was an undergraduate when advisors provided me with good advice to realize my full potential, even when I was undecided. Liberal arts Colleges are essential for exploring areas of study that students have never considered before, it helps open new doors every day and it has opened new doors for me as well. The lessons I have learned and opportunities I have been given will continue with me for the rest of my life.

I am so very grateful.