

OCT 30 2023

Edwards,Michelle

CITY CLERK

From: Ardell Sanders <ardell@ardellsanders.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 28, 2023 2:39 PM
To: outside email clerk
Subject: EXTERNAL -THRIVE Steering Committee Application

****External Email. - Think Before You Click** --**
Help Desk

Dear Michelle Edwards,

I am reaching out to you because I submitted an application with my interest for the THRIVE Steering Committee. I understand that the City Council will meet on Thursday, November 2. I have a prior commitment in Iowa for meetings with another board I serve on during that time. Below I have provided some information that I would have shared at the November 2 meeting. I am asking that you please share this information with the City Council prior to the meeting if possible. I thank you in advance for your assistance with this matter.

Sincerely,
Ardell J. Sanders

Dear Terre Haute City Council,

I am writing to express my interest in joining the THRIVE Steering Committee. I believe that my extensive background in university housing, property management, real estate investing, and a track record of leadership in community and academic institutions uniquely qualify me for this esteemed position.

My experience at Indiana State University, as the Executive Director for Residential Life, has imbued me with a deep understanding of the intricacies of housing matters, and safety and security coordination. Serving in roles that spanned from Graduate Assistant to my current role as Director, I have been instrumental in developing and maintaining the university's reputation for strong undergraduate and graduate education, all while championing community service.

Further, my tenure as the Property Manager at Regency Apartments and Community Manager at Keeler Apartments has given me valuable insights into property management. Managing multimillion-dollar budgets, ensuring optimal occupancy levels, and fostering community growth were core tenets of my roles. This hands-on experience was invaluable in understanding and navigating the housing concerns of community residents.

I proudly served on the alumni board at Clarke University in Dubuque, IA from 2015 to 2022 and have been an active member of the Board of Trustees at Clarke University since January of 2019, where I currently serve on the Executive Board as the chair of the Enrollment Management committee. I am also a member of the Board Governance and Finance committees. These roles have provided me with insights into the intricacies of organizational leadership, decision-making, and long-term strategic planning.

Within higher education, I am a member of multiple industry associations. One association I volunteer with is ACPA – American College Personnel Association. Within ACPA, I just completed a two-year commitment as the co-chair for the Institute on the Curricular Approach, which is dedicated to educating college and university professionals on how to develop and implement a curricular approach in Student Affairs. As a co-chair I oversaw the redesign of the institute and

successful implementation of new educational strategies designed to meet the challenges of an ever changing higher education landscape.

One of the significant threads woven through my career is my dedication to diversity and inclusion. Time and again, I have found myself in spaces where there was a dearth of diverse voices. Whether serving on boards, committees, faculty teams, search committees, or academic councils, I have always been an advocate for those who often feel voiceless. It's my mission to serve the communities I belong to and ensure that everyone, regardless of their background, feels seen, heard, and represented.

Furthermore, my stint at North Carolina Central University as the Director of the Men's Achievement Center showcased my commitment to creating initiatives that directly impact equity deserving communities. The center, under my guidance, touched the lives of over 2,000 undergraduate males each year, focusing on identity development, leadership growth, and retention strategies.

In a world that is increasingly complex and diverse, I bring a diversity of thought to every space I enter. My journey has taught me the value of inclusivity and the importance of ensuring that every individual, regardless of their background, has a seat at the table.

I look forward to the possibility of bringing my diverse experiences, skills, and passion to the THRIVE Steering Committee. I am confident that, together, we can make lasting positive changes in Terre Haute and further the mission of the organization.

Thank you for considering my application. I am eager to contribute to the growth and success of THRIVE through the Steering Committee.

Sincerely,

Ardell J. Sanders