

Byron Gittens

I attended a large public high school with no college prep office. I knew I'd have to push myself through a process I did not know so I could achieve the "American Dream." I dug through this process while working a part-time job at 14; there was no internet and no cell phones; and forget about social media!

I earned my bachelor's degree followed by an MBA, and have worked in several sectors in corporate America as well as aviation. I found the rewarding sector of college admissions about 10 years ago. It's rewarding to be the change in the lives of students or a bright light for so many that need guidance.

At Binghamton, a student can have it all: D1 sports, hundreds of student-run clubs and organizations, 1,000 education-abroad opportunities and top research opportunities. Students are driven by rigorous academics and engagement at an affordable financial investment.

I look forward to meeting students, families and their counselors at college fairs, junior nights, college panels, networking events and just in everyday life. I enjoy representing the product we have for students, families and counselors in their decision-making process.

I have been in higher education for 15 years and coming up on 4 of them at Binghamton University. I am part of the senior leadership team here at Binghamton in the Office of Undergraduate Admissions. I was hired to continue to grow the university's out of state market as a new addition to the regional/remote model. I was recruited from University of Maryland-College Park already based in CT/NYC; I was one of the founders to help that Big 10 institution launch their regionally admissions staff program.

I have been here doing 110% of the work to help the growth and bring added value to the university as many of us contingents do day in and day out. I believe many of us if not all want to be great at what we do in our serving capacity as well as our daily lives. I do not believe any of us wake up daily saying I am going to just give 90%, 80% or less than to look for trouble. Trouble can come in the disguise of an unsatisfactory review, a less than favorable glare from your supervisor on a daily basis or you just waking up daily knowing you are not being your "best self". I do not believe that we were hired based on any of these attributes. We are the same people that sat in the interview and were chosen out of many to be the soldiers for this university.

As a 90% employee and giving my all as I gave at my former #1 Publics it is discouraging to now understand I and others have no option to be tenure and we are recurring less benefits to none in our current roles and years of dedication. I have seen people that were hired before me and after me leave in my office and I am still here as other contingents probably in a similar situation. It is time the University recognizes we are not less-than people/team members and we need to be treated as such when warranted. I would like to work with those contingents who find themselves being overlooked or kept in the shadows just because you are labeled a contingent and your supervisor can do so if they or the department chooses.