



# Sami Broadstock

ENROLLMENT SERVICES ADVISOR

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## WHAT MADE YOU CHOOSE CR FOR YOUR EDUCATION AND WHAT STANDS OUT MOST FROM YOUR TIME AS A STUDENT?

“As an Upward Bound student, I began attending classes at CR when I was 15 as part of their summer program. I took a few classes after high school in 2006 and 2007, but didn't have a specific goal, so I went back into the workforce.

In 2009, I quit my job as an Account Executive in television advertising and enrolled full time at CR. I completed my Certificate of Achievement in ECE in one semester, and was offered a job in our Child Development Center as an Associate Teacher. I worked in the Otter Room and the Hummingbird Room until I transferred to Humboldt State University to finish my undergrad degree.

The meaningful conversations that occurred in those ECE classes ignited a passion in me for education, and motivated me to pursue a B.A. in Child Development.”

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## WHAT WAS YOUR MAJOR?

“Early Childhood Education”

## WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO RETURN TO COLLEGE OF THE REDWOODS AS AN EMPLOYEE?

“I returned to the CR campus in April of 2014 when I was hired as the Administrative Assistant for Academy of the Redwoods (AR) – the Middle College High School on site. I enjoyed working collaboratively with CR staff to support our students, and I loved the beauty of the campus. During the last two years I worked at AR, I completed an M.S. in Educational Counseling, and left AR during the summer of 2021 to work as a counselor at the elementary school level.

While my time working in elementary education was incredibly rewarding, it also gave me valuable insights into the kind of work environment where I thrive. I quickly realized that my strengths and passions aligned more with higher education. I applied to work as an Enrollment Services Advisor in financial aid, and was thrilled to get the job. I feel nurtured, supported, and inspired by colleagues here every single day. I've made friends here that I know will last for a lifetime.”

## WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE CURRENT STUDENTS ABOUT MAKING THE MOST OF THEIR TIME HERE?

“Don't be afraid to challenge yourself. You will never know what you're capable of unless you put yourself out there.

Don't ever let the amount of time it will take to accomplish a goal deter you from pursuing it, because that time is going to pass anyway.

Raise your hand and ask questions. There may be a timid classmate with the same question who will be SO relieved that you asked it.

Plug into groups and clubs if you can. Build up your resume with a federal work study job, if your schedule allows.

College is so much more than the courses you take. It's about connection, collaboration, widening your perspectives, and opening doors. When you're a CR student, you have a vast support network at your fingertips. It's up to you whether or not you choose to access it.”

## ARE THERE RESOURCES OR OPPORTUNITIES AT COLLEGE OF THE REDWOODS THAT YOU WISH MORE STUDENTS TOOK ADVANTAGE OF?

“I wish that more students applied for scholarships. Students often come to the financial aid window to ask if there are any other opportunities for aid, and when I ask if they have applied for scholarships, the answer is often no.

I also wish that all students felt comfortable advocating for themselves. Some students tend to get discouraged quickly when they find themselves struggling in a class, and many of them attempt to drop courses before utilizing tutoring, seeking support, or even discussing the matter with their professor. I hope to foster an environment in which students are never afraid to ask for help.

Last, but definitely not least, I wish all students checked their student email account regularly. We email students when they have missing documents that we need to process their application for financial aid, and when students are not accessing their email and not checking their myFinAid through WebAdvisor, this can cause unnecessary delays in receiving their award letter. Waiting until the last minute to figure out the financial aspect often causes stress and anxiety that could be easily avoided by checking student portals regularly or calling the school to ask for a status update.”