DEAR DR. WESTHOFF

I am extremely excited for the opportunity to apply for the Co-Director of Leadership Studies position. I care deeply for our students and think each one has immense capacity to become powerful change agents in their communities at a time when they are needed most.

Today’s students are facing some of the most pressing economic, social, and environmental challenges ever seen. Our graduates need to feel and be empowered to adequately participate in a public dialogue on issues of importance that is increasingly tense and divided. This requires not only building knowledge, skills, and competencies in their subject areas, but also building skills in deep listening, empathy, and working together across differences. It also requires an active reflection on the type of leader they each are and how to employ their unique skills to inspire and create a better world.

I have had the honor of coordinating a new endowed scholarship at BSU in honor of my grandparents Raymond and Margaret Carlson, who were both lifelong servant leaders in the Bemidji Community. The Raymond and Margaret Carlson Public Service Scholarship acknowledges students that show an outstanding commitment to BSU and the broader community. Through this role, I have been able to evaluate several student applications and have learned just how transformative being active and engaged in civic life can be for students. I am eager to actively assist in developing student leaders through this position.

I have had extensive leadership training both as a graduate of the University of Minnesota ULEAD Program in 2015 as well as the Blandin Community Leadership Training Program in 2017. I have gained significant training and teaching experience with Peacemaker Resources in Social Emotional Learning and Conflict Resolution.

Through the Leadership Studies position and program, I would love to see us utilize tools like StrengthsFinder and the MBTI evaluation for students to better understand their own strengths and identify ways to utilize them in their current and future roles. Given BSU’s commitment to the Best You @ BSU program, and HMU’s Student Leadership Center, I believe there is a significant opportunity to explore deeper collaboration to attract, recruit and retain students to this Leadership program.

I also serve on many boards and committees including BSU’s Community Engagement Council, BSU’s Environmental Advisory Committee, Women United, the City of Bemidji Sustainability Committee and the NW Clean Energy Resource Team that position me well to be a resource, mentor and networker between students and community leaders.

Thank you so much for your consideration and I look forward to discussing how my experience and interest can complement the Leadership Studies program.

Sincerely,

Anna Carlson