

**Courtney Horner** is the Assistant Director of Federal and State Programs in the Penn State Office of Student Aid. Courtney Horner serves as Assistant Director of Federal and State Programs in the Office of Student Aid at Penn State University. In this role, she oversees the Federal Direct Loan program and assists with the development of debt management and default prevention strategies. Courtney has over 10 years of experience working in nonprofits, coordinating outreach initiatives and volunteer programs, advocating for low-income women and their families, and planning community health events. In her current position, Courtney is committed to providing students with the support, knowledge, and resources they need to be financially successful not only while attending Penn State, but also following graduation.

**Rebekka Kuhn** is an Academic Adviser in the Division of Undergraduate Studies (DUS) at Penn State. She works with undergraduate students to explore academic programs and co-curricular opportunities that are aligned with their interests and values.

**Amanda Wintersteen** returned to her alma mater in January 2012 bringing federal advocacy experience and an in-depth understanding of higher education issues. At Penn State, Amanda handles federal relations efforts from campus and enjoys traveling to Washington, DC, to share with Members of Congress and Congressional staff the University's policy and funding priorities related to Penn State's robust research portfolio and student aid programs that create access for students of Pennsylvania.

Prior to joining Penn State's Government and Community Relations, Amanda Wintersteen served as Assistant Director for Government Relations at the National Association for College Admission Counseling. In this role, Amanda monitored and analyzed federal legislation and regulations affecting high school counselors and college admission officers. She also represented the Association's college access and student protection policy priorities to Congressional offices, Federal agencies, the White House Domestic Policy Council, and coalition partners.

Before moving to Washington, DC, to pursue work in college access policy, Amanda began her career in college admission. First, as an admission counselor at Penn State Greater Allegheny, then in various roles in the Undergraduate Admissions Office at Penn State University Park where she traveled the country representing the University.

Amanda earned a bachelor's degree in public relations and a master's degree in higher education, both from Penn State. She is a native of rural Glen Campbell, PA, and resides in Bellefonte with her husband Kyle, also a Penn State public relations alum, and their two sons.

### **Questions for Rebekka Kuhn, Academic Advisor**

1. How does academic planning impact students' total cost of education?
2. How do you help students to connect their major to realistic post-graduation goals?
3. As an academic adviser, what advice would you give to students to begin preparing now to be competitive candidates?

### **Questions for Courtney Horner, Office of Student Aid**

1. How does the Office of Student Aid equip students with the understanding and responsibilities of borrowing loans for educational purposes?
2. How does the Office of Student Aid keep students informed of their lifetime Direct loan limits and educational indebtedness?
3. How is does Office of Student Aid prepare students for successful repayment following graduation?

### **Questions for Amanda Wintersteen, Office of Government and Community Relations**

1. What is the funding status of the Federal grant programs? Of Federal loan programs? Of Federal work-study programs?
2. What is the forecast for Federal student aid reform?
3. What is Washington / Federal government (and Harrisburg / State government) doing to make college more affordable?