

David Robertson

Career Services Specialist 4

Academic Affairs: School of Global Policy & Strategy

No matter if you ask a student, fellow staff member, or faculty; anyone at the School of Global Policy and Strategy (GPS) would be happy to sing the praises of David Robertson, GPS's director of career services. His commitment to building relationships through proactive leadership and innovation is truly inspirational. He daily expands the good name of GPS for its staff, faculty and alumni. Seven hundred words is too few to accurately describe all he does.

David is always looking to enhance the GPS student experience outside of the classroom. On his own initiative, he created a Professional Development Committee that brings recruiters, alumni, faculty and students together to determine how we can further develop our students for their internships and careers. This committee resulted in the creation of several skills certificates including entrepreneurship, leadership and management, and computer programming. Considered too "soft" for formal classes within the GPS curriculum, these certificates allow us to engage community members in real and interesting ways, and prepare our students to enter the workforce with necessary skills not covered by the curriculum for their degrees. He also opened them up to alumni, allowing them to continue to hone their skills. These programs are a great way to be sure we are serving our community to the best of our abilities.

Through David's leadership, a Global Partnership – Dos Puertas - was developed enhancing UCSD's ties with local universities SDSU, USD and CETYS (Mexico). This collaboration has given GPS students real world experience solving cross-border issues. This project could provide a real advance and be replicated throughout the country if successful.

David is known as the GPS cheerleader and loves to find ways to connect everyone. He strives to increase participation in the Triton 5K by coming up with creative ways to motivate the faculty, students, staff, and alumni to join the GPS Globetrotters team – which resulted in GPS winning the Campus Champion award at the 2017 Triton 5K with 120 team members. His goal for 2018 is 200 members! Other examples of his efforts to build bridges include organizing two annual hikes open to all in the GPS community and coordinating the "lunch bunch," a monthly staff get-together to reconnect and explore the different eateries around campus.

David's commitment to serving GPS students is unwavering. He continues developing professional relationships well after the students have transitioned into alumni. He remembers personal details about the alumni, their families, and their careers that make each person feel back at home when they return to campus. Even alumni who graduated well before David started at GPS know him and trust him as a reliable resource.

David volunteers his time with numerous community organizations, including 12 years and counting as a board member for the Rancho Family YMCA. He is an active member of the San Diego Refugee Forum and frequently invites our students to join him at the monthly meetings.

Within the Career Services team, David keeps us on our toes with his witty sense of humor and "Dad jokes." He genuinely values our ideas and encourages us to pursue professional development opportunities. He is also a true team player. For example, our "other duties as assigned" sometimes include cleaning up conference rooms after other groups have used them, and David is the first to jump in and do the less glamorous work.

David is committed to environmental sustainability and leads by example, riding his bike to work from Poway, making sure we purchase recyclable paper products, and even sorting through trash to move items to the appropriate bin.

Words from a current student: Daniel Rust, GPS Class of 2018

One of the greatest advantages of being a student at GPS is the Career Services department and David Robertson's leadership there. In addition to the excellent career services assistance he provides to students, David is constantly looking for ways in which to enhance the GPS experience for both students and alumni. His level of institutional knowledge is a true asset. David proves that you never really leave GPS; he is the soul of the place.