

WSU Vancouver and its community atmosphere: A Q&A with Eric Scott

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Eric Scott | WSU Vancouver

Eric Scott joined WSU Vancouver as director of student development in January of 2018. Eric has years of experience working in student affairs, including managing student engagement initiatives. He hopes to educate those interested in working in a higher-education setting and share his passion for the WSU Vancouver community. Andrew Nevue sat down to discuss his role and thoughts on the community.

How are you liking your transition to the WSU Vancouver community?

I like the new challenges, responsibility and opportunity of joining a new organization. My challenge is that I want to rely on staff to help chart a vision for the university but realize that some of the staff are either looking at me for that vision or are new themselves. I also like the people that I work with which helps.

What concepts from your previous institution do you want to implement at WSU Vancouver?

Take the commuter school philosophy. We are recruiting students to our university because they have other commitments that make this community the best fit. We recruit them for those reasons but then we offer very little flexibility in getting involved, I'd like to examine those to determine how we create more sustainable involvement that is authentic to their lives.

What impact does the budget crisis have on student involvement?

Almost all of student involvement, student government remains less impacted by any of the budget freeze because the students have not been allocating 100 percent of their available money. The budget freeze is a savings plan to remedy overspending.

Was working in Student Affairs an established goal of yours ?

I worked in the Recreation program while completing my undergrad degree and was fully anticipating a career as a high school counselor.

What excites you about the Vancouver community?

The community is large enough for my kids, my wife and me to find opportunities to get involved in ways that we were not able to in a town that was much smaller. I honestly thought the town was more liberal and progressive than it turned out to be though.

Are you hoping to see added to campus within 10 years?

The Student Union Building. It is desperately needed on campus for a space that students can have governance over and invite the community into. The other things on that list would be multi-level parking.