I am
The ROCK

Michael Ignelzi

Job: Associate professor/graduate coordinator of counseling and development.


Background: I grew up in California in a mountain resort town named ‘Big Bear Lake’ – a truly beautiful environment. I attended the University of California for my undergraduate degree in psychology and The Ohio State University where I received a master’s degree in student affairs administration. I worked for several years on college and university campuses in positions such as director of residence life and dean of students. My work with college students got me greatly interested in how students learn and develop and how campus environments can be designed to support that learning. I received a doctorate in human development and psychology from Harvard University.

Interests: My interests include participating in the lives of my four daughters, relaxing with my wife and close friends, walking my dog around my neighborhood, watching Major League Baseball – I’m a fan of both the Pirates and Angels – and listening to a variety of music.

Person I would most like to have dinner with: Martin Luther King Jr. He stands as one of the most influential and transformational leaders in our nation’s history. His work toward civil rights for all through non-violent change provides an inspiring illustration of how to strive for justice consistent with the highest ethical and moral principles.

Why I work at The Rock: I came to Slippery Rock University as the first full-time faculty member in the student affairs in higher education master’s degree program to teach in and redesign this important program. The student affairs program educates individuals to effectively lead campus services for college students aimed at supporting their developmental needs and learning. I am fortunate to teach and mentor talented master’s students and help launch them into successful careers at colleges and universities both in Pennsylvania and across the country.