

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



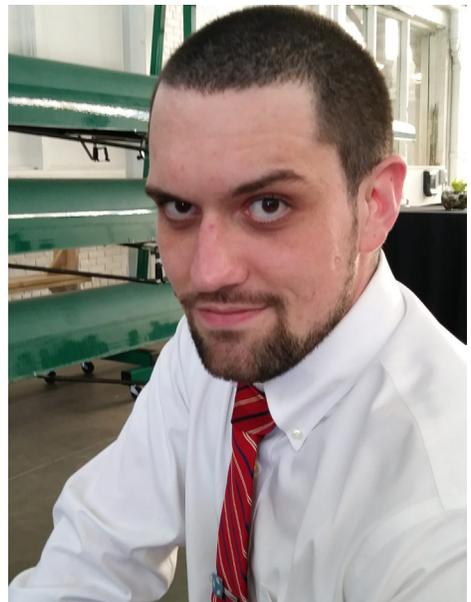
CHAMPLAIN
COLLEGE

Meet David!

David Borocz-Johnson, B.S.W. '13

Tell us a little about yourself.

I grew up in the Cleveland suburb of Bay Village, I'm proud to call northeast Ohio my home and I love living on Lake Erie. But my experiences in life have led me to the conviction that the earth is my home and I hope to travel and see as much of it as possible. My experiences in Vermont played a major part in formulating that conviction.



Why did you choose Champlain?

My sister was an elementary school music teacher in southern Vermont at the time so I looked at colleges in New England so she would have family nearby. I fell in love with the atmosphere and beauty of Burlington and Champlain's campus. I started in the Graphic Design Program, though I switched to social work my sophomore year and graduated in the first accredited cohort. It was a good switch!

What did you like most about your experience at Champlain, academically and otherwise?

Burlington and Vermont in general hold a very dear place in my heart. It was such a friendly and progressive atmosphere. All my professors were very caring and personable. Outside of academics, getting to meet Bernie Sanders when he spoke at Champlain my senior year was life-changing and has inspired me to advocate for his political movement here in Ohio.

How did Champlain change you?

I would not be on the path I am if I did not attend Champlain so I guess you could say it was life changing. I found my passion for helping others and improving the communities in which we live to make them safe, inclusive and progressive.

Did you complete an internship at while at Champlain?

As part of my social work program I interned as a para-educator at the Integrated Arts Academy and also interned at Transitional Services for Youth and Families where I worked with foster youth. During my study abroad trip to Dublin, I interned at the Dublin Community Development Vocational Education center where I tutored a class of asylum-seeking refugees in math and English.

Tell us about your current job?

I am program associate at the Community Foundation of Lorain County, where I review grant requests from nonprofit corporations throughout North East Ohio serving the residents of Lorain County. I also moved our grant making process to an online system. In my free time I helped found a non-profit corporation, the Lorain County LGBTQ and Allies Task Force, which is conducting groundbreaking work in advocating for and serving Lorain County's LGBTQ Community.

What do you like best about your job?

It's deeply meaningful work to me. The Foundation provides funding support to our nonprofit partners, who in turn support those in need in our County. It's a difficult and stressful job, but I know my work has the opportunity to improve the lives of tens of thousands.

Where do you see yourself in 5 years?

In 5 years I aspire to still be working with the Community Foundation of Lorain County. In the long run I have entrepreneurial aspirations in the for-profit sector and would like to run for office.

What excites you about the future?

I'm grateful to be a part of Northeast Ohio's (NEO) continuous renaissance. We're writing a new chapter as a medical and technology hub, and communities are coming together around the beautiful anchor institutions and landmarks that we've always had, celebrating and supporting them. I would not have the technological prowess I do without having gone to Champlain, and it's given me a unique perspective on the intersection of social justice and technology and all the possibilities for good that exist there.

What is one thing about you few people know?

If I were a DJ my stage name would be DJDBJ. Now you know the stage name before it gets big. Keep your eyes out... I've got big aspirations.

What specifically would you like to share?

These are unprecedented and polarized times. Do not let the big picture get you down. Take any negative energies you absorb from your environments and channel it into positive outlets, such as determination to improve yourself in mind, body, and spirit. Do not focus on the big-picture things you cannot change, instead focus on your environment around you and helping improve it because that absolutely matters too.