

Dr. Kristin Austin (she/her) is a lover of talking, tacos, and Target. A professional helper and lifelong learner, Dr. Austin has accumulated 23+ years of experience in the higher education sector, rotating as a senior-level administrator, or a full-time faculty member, all within functional areas that promote diversity, access, inclusion, and retention. Starting with her first professional role as an admissions counselor, Dr. Austin designed and implemented a comprehensive multicultural student recruitment campaign, the first of its kind at the university. From there, she continued crafting progressively responsible career experiences at domestic and international universities while always centering the personal and academic success of underrepresented student populations.

Simultaneous to pursuing research and professional endeavors that emphasize equity, Dr. Austin also began offering inclusion and diversity education to small businesses and teams via her small business, K.E.Advancement, Inc. Rooted in a posture of cultural humility, Dr. Austin's goal is to catalyze individuals and structures to question, "Who is at the table? Who is missing from the table? For whom was the table built? And who is unaware the table exists?" Dr. Austin currently serves as Vice-President of I.D.E.As. (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access) for Rewriting the Code, a national not-for-profit organization dedicated to disrupting and dismantling racial and gender inequality in the technology sector by equipping and empowering college women in tech. Along with her professional work, Dr. Austin engages in speaking, teaching, and pushing visibility for inclusion topics, especially those related to neurodiversity. Holding identities of ADHD and learning disabled, Dr. Austin loves to create and hold space for neuro-spicy brains, like hers, and maybe yours.

Dr. Austin holds a Doctorate in Higher Education Leadership & Administration, a Professional Certificate in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, a master's degree in counseling, and a bachelor's degree (her favorite degree) in Social Work. For the past 14 years, she has also been enrolled in Parent University, where she has been blessed to learn from 3 small, and forgiving professors, ages 15, 13, and 9. Dr. Austin is also married to a fellow education professional. For these reasons, her favorite get-a-way is to Target.... alone.