

**Kalyn Johnson,
B.A. English,
Professional
Writing, 2017**

By Olivia Alsup

**Residence Life Area
Coordinator &
Center for Diversity
and Inclusion
Program
Coordinator,
Franklin College**



“An English degree can truly take you anywhere. Anyone who says it’s confined to one area-- it’s just not true. They need writers in every single field.”

Kalyn Johnson graduated from Western Kentucky University with a Bachelor of Arts in Professional Writing and a minor in Creative Writing in 2017. She initially chose to tour WKU because it was the only university in Kentucky with a Professional Writing program, but quickly fell in love with the campus. Her choice to pursue English came from the power of stories. “I just got so entranced with what you can do with writing and the power that a well-written story or essay can have.”

Johnson remembers writing instructions for building LEGOs in Dr. Jones’ technical writing course. Her favorite thing about that project was learning to convey clear instructions. She also uses the lessons she learned from Dr. Fife’s Argument and Analysis course to understand her writing process today. “I’m just really thankful I was able to go through the Professional Writing program. I think if I went through any other program, I wouldn’t have developed the skills that I have today, especially in ways of public speaking.”

After graduation, Johnson worked as a Social Media Administrator and Marketing Manager for a small company in Louisville where she focused on advertising and creating learning tools for using new products. She then went on to earn a Master of Education in Educational Leadership with a focus in Higher Educational Student Affairs

from Eastern Michigan University. There, she also held a position in Housing and Residence Life where she oversaw students and resident assistants.

Johnson is currently the Residence Life Area Coordinator & Center for Diversity and Inclusion Program Coordinator for Franklin College in Franklin, IN. As the Center for Diversity and Inclusion Program Coordinator, she oversees and supports three different living-learning communities on campus and provides educational opportunities for students surrounding diversity and inclusion. For Johnson's work as the Residence Life Area Coordinator, most of her current work involves COVID-19 response for four residence halls on campus. This includes fielding student concerns, overseeing resident assistants, and providing support. She is currently most passionate about letting the students she oversees know that the College cares. "We have real human beings on our campus during a global pandemic, and they need to know that we care, so let's show them that."

Johnson strongly encourages undergraduate students to take advantage of internship opportunities during their time at WKU. Throughout her education, Johnson held multiple internship positions at WKU and in Graduate school. She was a Summer's Activity Director at North Carolina State as an undergraduate. While in Graduate school, she did an internship at the University of Texas San Antonio where she helped facilitate their Summer Orientation Program. She also worked as an intern in the Office of Wellness and Community Responsibility at Eastern Michigan University. She believes having those work experiences will give students the opportunity to figure out what area of English they enjoy and how to get there after graduation.

