

Alex B. Criswell

AN IMPRESSIONIST



PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Purdue University Calumet (Graduate Assistant)
- Olive Garden Italian Restaurant (Certified Trainer/Server)
- Blue Chip Casino (Server)
- Four Winds Casino Resort (Server)
- Stampede Banquets (Server/Prep Cook)
- Saint Anthony Memorial Hospital (Food Service Worker)

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

Graduate Candidate:

- M.S. Ed (Instructional Technology)
- M.A. (Communication)

Degrees Earned:

- B.S. (Hospitality & Tourism)
- A.A.S. (Business Administration)
- A.A.S. (Hospitality Administration)
- Technical Cert. (Management)

Autobiography & Professional Vision

My personal and professional life revolves around education. I consider myself to be a “life-long” learner. While currently employed at Olive Garden, I have heard my manager’s state this philosophy “Always Learning, Always Teaching.” I feel that matches with my ‘style’ well as I am always eager to learn and share what I have learned.

While I have not had the chance in the past to continually demonstrate what I have learned in life, I have had the chance to demonstrate all of my knowledge and acquired skills while in graduate school and working my graduate assistantships. My graduate assistantship on campus at Purdue University Calumet has opened my eyes to customer service, education, and goal-setting. While I have had extensive experience in the food service industry, which has strengthened my customer service skills, I never had the chance to set goals for myself until I began my graduate studies.

I first attended school because I thought “it was the thing to do;” however, I slowly realized that school would help me realize my dream—It has. My goal after earning my dual-master’s degree from Purdue University will be to work as an Instructional Designer within a training division of a Hospitality organization.

Professional Vision: To implement an a-synchronous training program within restaurants, in an effort to reduce face-to-face training and the labor hours associated with the synchronous training.

PURDUE UNIVERSITY CALUMET STUDENT

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ISTP “THE MECHANIC”

- Quiet & reserved
- Wonders how & why things work
- Well-skilled with mechanical items
- Risk-taker who “live for the moment”
- Loyal to peers & internal-value systems
- Not overly concerned with laws/rules/regulations if they hinder the progress of completing a task efficiently.
- Detached & analytical
- Excels at finding solutions to practical problems

Myers-Briggs Type Indicator Personality Test: ISTP (*Introverted Thinking with Extraverted Sensing*)

An ISTP is noted as a rational and logical individual who has a compelling drive to understand the way things work (personality page, 2012). I find that interesting as I am the type of person who will inspect all “parts” of something to find out how it exactly works; although, sometimes I have trouble putting it back together, if I do not remember the steps. ISTP’s are also known for their adventuresome spirit (2012); which I find rather interesting as I have never been an adventurous person, although, the idea of learning how to ride a motorcycle in the future does intrigue me....

ISTP’s are noted for being loyal to their causes and beliefs, which includes the desire for equity and fairness amongst all individuals. We are known for not “always” following the rules (2012); as we generally have our own rules or guidelines to “get the job done.” In reference to not always following the rules, I can agree to that statement—I am not one to always follow things “by the book.” I am an individual who respects the rules, but if I can get the job completed effectively and lawfully; I’ll do it.

An example of this would be my graduate assistantship in the Office of Instructional Technology, where we have been working with professors to transition from Blackboard Vista (WebCT) to Blackboard Learn 9.1. I was instructed to show the professors how to do “X” in Blackboard Learn following specific instructions. I found myself practically throwing the instructions out the window and teaching the faculty in my own style. My style consisted of assessing the needs of my learner, which I found many faculty members did not understand how “X” worked in Learn, even though the same exact function was in Vista, but in different terminology. My secret was explaining how to do “X” in Learn in terms (Vista terms) the learner could understand, while incorporating the new terminology in my “lesson” at the same time. While my style was different from the instructions given, I broke no rules, and found in the end—it worked.

ISTP’s are known to be “action-oriented” people (2012); however, they still require their *quiet time*. This is something I completely agree with, as I am a very hyper-active person who always needs his quiet time at the end of the day as well as an uninterrupted sleep in order to function my best the following day.

“The images we receive shape the ones we transmit.”



Pisces- February 20th, 1987

THE DAY OF THE IMPRESSION

As a firm-believer in astrology; February 20th is noted as “The Day of the Impression.” People born on February 20th (myself) are individuals who always like to leave a lasting impression on everything they do—something I cannot deny.

Qualities:

- Perceptive
- Cooperative
- Memorable
- Impressionable
- Reactive
- Emotional

Personality:

- Dedicated work ethic
- Vivid memories
- Team-oriented

Northouse (2012) notes six key traits in a leader: 1) Intelligence, 2) Confidence, 3) Charisma, 4) Determination, 5) Sociability, and 6) Integrity.

My traits ranked from strongest to weakest would be:

- 1) Intelligence- I am amazed at how much information can be stored in my head and be able to come out of my mouth at times. I feel my intelligence level has been due to my determination in my educational studies.
- 2) Determination- I have always been a very determined person to do the best I can do to my ability.
- 3) Sociability- I never used to be very sociable as I was more of an academic person throughout my high school and early college years. I was never the type of person to converse with individuals until I realized that being quiet is not always the best thing. Since that realization, I have forced myself to become more sociable with others personally and professionally.
- 4) Integrity- I have always been noted as an honest and trustworthy person and am honored to have such a title.
- 5) Charisma- Charisma is my current goal that I am working on personally. I need to set more goals and have clear values and expectations of what I want in the future.
- 6) Confidence- While I am an impressionist in my life and in my work; I still find myself “second-guessing” sometimes. My goal is to improve my confidence before entering the corporate world so I will be successful as a leader in my future profession.

LEADERSHIP STYLE: ADVOCATE

An advocate is known as a spokesperson for a group, are very articulate and persuasive (Leadership, 2013). Advocate was the highest score on my leadership legacy test. Other styles such as ambassador, experienced guide, and truth-seeker were tied for my second highest style. An ambassador is the type of person who can handle a variety of situations, including harsh ones (2013). A truth-seeker seeks fairness and good judgment while the experienced guide is able to “put themselves in other’s shoes” as a ‘natural-therapist’ and are known for their intelligence (2013). While advocate was my highest score, I think those other styles are incorporated in me as well. An advocate is noted as a spokesperson, I feel I am not the “average” spokesperson, as I still get nervous in large crowds; however, being articulate and persuasive—I would agree with those. I tend to be a persistent and precise individual with my own “set” style.

Works Cited

- ISTP. (2012). Retrieved from Personality Page: <http://personalitypage.com/>
- Goldschneider, G. (2012). *February 20th*. Retrieved from The Secret Language of Birthdays: <http://www.thesecretlanguageofbirthdays.com/r/?r=d19680220>
- Northouse, P. G. (2012). *Introduction to Leadership: Concepts and practices*. Los Angeles: Sage.