TIBBS Career Blitz Career Profile Questionnaire

**Career Profile:** High School Teacher and Research Coordinator

**What is your current title and how long have you worked in your current job?**
Research Mentorship Coordinator
1 year 6 months

**Where did you get your PhD and what discipline was it in?**
Case Western Reserve University
Neuroscience

**Did you do a postdoc?**
Yes. UNC-Chapel Hill with Bill Snider (Neuroscience)

**What are your main daily responsibilities?**
Advise and communicate with students on their research experiences
Teach and evaluate 75 students in my research class
Communicate with our current mentors at local universities and companies
Recruit new mentors and opportunities
Arrange transportation for research students
Promote our research programs to students, parents, mentors, and potential funders
Coordinate and expand our Summer Research Internship Program

**What are the keys to success in your career field?**
Multitasking and organizational skills are critical
Be passionate about listening, advising, and promoting high school students
Truly enjoy (and be effective) communicating with all levels (students, parents, fellow teachers, mentors in all fields from universities, non-profit, companies, etc.)
Good intuition and attentiveness to address the needs of both mentors and students
Commitment to professional, student and program development

**What were the most important factors in choosing your career path?**
A successful career path is mainly about giving and receiving. You want to be giving something that comes natural to you and receiving something of value to you. It sounds simple, but happiness in a career is based on the level of confidence you have in what you contribute and the satisfaction that results from the process/outcome. I have to say that I have more confidence and smiles in my current job than I ever thought possible 😊

**What activities (if any) did you participate in that helped you be successful in obtaining your job?**
FIRST IV Postdoctoral Scholar (Faculty Institutes for Reforming Science Teaching)
https://www.msu.edu/~first4/
Served as a Guest Lecturer for undergraduate and graduate students
UNC-CH, Department of Biology, Neurobiology Curriculum
Davidson, Department of Biology
What 1 or 2 pieces of advice do you have for people who want to land a job like yours?

You can make yourself stand out from other applicants (and be better prepared for the job) by taking time out of your research to develop your teaching and leadership skills. You must make connections with as many people in as many fields as possible.