



Travis Neese

West Regional Sales Manager

Q: Tell us about your role within your department. What do you love most about your job?

A: I am the West Regional Sales Manager for the Training Education Division. I love that I get to do what I love as a "job". I am thankful for the opportunity to work with my incredible team of State & Staffing Directors as well as the Coaches and Athletes we create experiences for each day.

Q: What's been your greatest achievement or favorite memory while working here?

A: I started as a UCA Staff Instructor in 1999 and have never looked back. I have worked in pretty much every department and capacity of the company, as a Camp Instructor, State & Staffing Director, Events, Apparel Rep and more. This company has helped me grow into the person I am today, because of the unique opportunities we are given at a moments notice, to jump in and make great things happen. I have made my best friends and mentors through Varsity and will forever be grateful for the experiences, confidence and leadership skills I have gained. My favorite memory was having the opportunity to sing the National Anthem at NHSCC during the ESPN show.

Q: What does Pride mean to you, and how are you celebrating this year?

A: PRIDE means being unapologetically thankful for who I am and having true, self-love. It means acknowledging & supporting the LGBTQ+ community, especially the youth, to make sure they have a voice and feel loved. We all have the power to create a more inclusive world. Take action and be the example.

Q: Who in the LGBTQ+ community inspires you?

A: RuPaul for being a champion on self-expression, self-love and encouraging the world to just be kind. That is true inspiration on how to be a good human and make a greater impact in this world by promoting diversity & inclusion and acceptance for everyone.

"If you can't love yourself, how the hell are you gonna love somebody else?" -RuPaul

Q: Please share a fun fact about you.

A: I can quote the movie Clueless verbatim, and sometimes have full conversations with friends, using only scripted lines from the movie.

Favorite Quote: "I would like to say this. Tardiness is not something you can do on your own. Many people contributed to my tardiness. I would like to thank my parents for never giving me a ride to school, the LA city bus driver who took a chance on an unknown kid, and last but not least, the wonderful crew at McDonald's who spend hours making those egg McMuffins without which I might never be tardy." -Travis Birkenstock.

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