



Advising Community on Graduate & Professional Students

Newsletter August 2020

WHO WE ARE

The community comprises professionals who advise post-baccalaureate students. We welcome all who work with traditional graduate students, professional degree seekers, adults returning for advanced degrees or certificates, and alternatively delivered and structured graduate and professional programs. Small in size but great in commitment, our community provides a mutually supportive context for discussion of issues particular to serving these student populations. Ongoing projects include encouraging discussion of pertinent topics on our listserv, providing resources to help advisors help students, and increasing our presence at national and regional meetings.

Welcome to the August issue of the GPS Newsletter! As we embark on the 2020-2021 academic year, we are cautiously moving forward, boldly facing certain challenges, while trying to navigate many of the unknowns and uncertainties that still remain. I am sure that there have been countless situations experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic that have resulted in feelings of being unsettled, overwhelmed, or anxious. We want to acknowledge the myriad of challenges that you have encountered and applaud your perseverance, resilience, and grit as you continue to tackle each situation courageously. It is important to take time to reflect on your successes and the learning experiences that have resulted amid the COVID-19 pandemic. It can be difficult to find the silver linings during difficult times. With that said, we seek to help spread positivity, shed light, and share words of encouragement with our advising community members and friends by asking the following question: ***What gives you hope right now?***

Below are responses to this question from some of our Advising Community on Graduate & Professional Students steering committee members:

- Jamie Heck - The immense commitment of my University of Cincinnati colleagues and our Advising Community on Graduate & Professional Students members and friends has been inspiring to me. I have been motivated by the enhanced level of innovation, flexibility, adaptability, and resourcefulness that I have witnessed during this pandemic. For me, I now have a shared experience with my colleagues and our fellow advising community members and friends. During this time, I have observed the vulnerability and emotional authenticity of others. I find hope in the relationships and connections that have been created and strengthened by this shared human experience.

- Courtney Lewellen - The building of community during the pandemic has given me a great amount of hope. From coworkers becoming more vulnerable, trusting and willing to share and assist with experiences, to working with colleagues from other institutions and sharing more than just the work in front of us, to being able to spend more time with family and friends in different ways, I feel like the best part of 2020 is the relationships that have been built and deepened by our current circumstances.

- Dawn Loyola - What gives me hope now is the kindness, empathy, and willingness to learn and grow I see among the members of our advising team at UC Riverside, more broadly on campus and in our advising community. Through all of the upheaval and uncertainty, I have witnessed people going out of their way to ensure others are OK by reaching out individually, working

through Staff Assembly to organize book clubs and listening sessions, hosting extra office hours so students know we are here for them, and in general being a place of acceptance and safety for our community when we can't be together in person. I also find hope in how resilient my family is through all of this. School started virtually and the kids are adapting to the situation much better than I expected!



- Colleen Rose – Personally, watching my relationships strengthen with my neighbors since the start of the pandemic gives me hope. During the pandemic, I've met neighbors I didn't know before and we've created a neighborhood texting thread. Since March, we have held street parades to celebrate kids' birthdays, exchanged garden vegetables, shared tools, bought toilet paper for each other, supported local businesses with group orders of delivered food, and supported one another through the loss of family members. Frankly, it's been beautiful, and I am grateful for this silver lining.

Let us know what gives you hope right now. Email your response to Jamie Heck, Advising Community on Graduate & Professional Students Chair, at reynoji@uc.edu and we may feature it in an upcoming newsletter.

PUBLICATION SPOTLIGHT

This month's article, "Dispositional Resilience," written by Robert Johnson back in 2009, maintains real world relevance for us in 2020. While Johnson referenced life events such as Hurricane Katrina and the September 11th attacks, the discussion easily translates to the COVID era. In this article, Johnson cites key components to building resilience as suggested by the American Psychological Association (APA), which can be utilized in work with our students as well as ourselves. Also discussed are reactions to life events, as well as strategies and interventions that academic advisors can utilize with their students. [Access the article on NACADA's website.](#)

MEMBER HIGHLIGHT



Katelyn Talbott
University of Illinois at Urbana-
Champaign

Hello! My name is Katelyn Talbott and I have been an academic advisor with the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign since 2017. For the past 1.5 years I have been with the School of Information Sciences advising both online and on-campus students in the MS/Library and Information Science program. In addition to advising, I currently coordinate the weekly newsletters, semester communications, and assist with the planning and implementation of on-campus orientation and Welcome Weekend (orientation for online students). This past academic year I founded the Illinois Graduate Professionals Association (iGPA) for those who work with graduate students at Illinois. The goal of iGPA is to provide professional development opportunities and a space for graduate professionals to connect on an informal level from across the university.

This spring, I plan to defend my dissertation through the Ed.D. Learning Design and Leadership program in the College of Education at Illinois. My research examines motivations for adult learners who are career changers during the time of COVID-19. Additionally, I am investigating what services or opportunities they might require for success in an online professional master's program. Upon completion, I am excited for more time to contribute to the Graduate and Professional Student Committee as this is my first year of membership. Nevertheless, during this first year, I was able to be a panelist for the *June GPS Talk – Step One: Onboarding* meeting and will be a panelist at a NACADA 2020 National Conference presentation entitled *All Aboard! A Panel on Graduate Student Online, Hybrid, and Campus Orientation Models*. Reflecting on my first year, I am excited what I have learned from others in this group. I plan to carry this energy into the work-from-home fall semester and see what spring brings! If you would like to connect (ktalbott@illinois.edu), I look forward to hearing from you soon!

PROFESSIONAL OUTSIDE RESOURCE

National Association of Advisors for the Health Professions (NAAHP): The National Association of Advisors for the Health Professions serves as a resource for the professional development of health professions advisors. It is a representative voice with health professions schools and their professional associations, undergraduate institutions, and other health professions organizations. The Association promotes high standards for health professions advising at universities and colleges. It assists advisors in fostering the intellectual, personal, and humanistic development of students as they prepare for careers in health professions. [Learn more about the NAAHP.](#)

WRITING FOR NACADA PUBLICATION

This is a friendly reminder that signup for NACADA's Writing Support Groups for the 2020-21 academic year is extended through Thursday, September 10, 2020. [Sign up to participate in a Writing Support Group.](#) After signup, group participants will be contacted to organize a time that works for you and your colleagues who are at a similar place in the research and writing process. Meetings will be held virtually via Zoom. Groups will be autonomous and can plan subsequent meetings and regularity based on the group's needs. [Learn more about Writing Support Groups.](#)

2020 ASSESSMENT INSTITUTE (VIRTUAL) HOSTED BY IUPUI

The Assessment Institute, hosted by Indiana University–Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI), is the nation's oldest and largest higher education event of its type.

You are invited to join the 2020 Assessment Institute to be held virtually, October 25-28, 2020. For 2020, [complimentary registration](#) will be offered to attend the virtual Assessment Institute, including the Pre-Institute workshops on Sunday, October 25, 2020, to *all members of the higher education community.* [Learn more about the Assessment Institute.](#)

NACADA'S 2020 VIRTUAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Join us during NACADA's 2020 Virtual Annual Conference on October 5-8, 2020 for various virtual engagement opportunities! The conference theme is "No Student Is an Island: The Rich Port of Advising and Connection." We are eager to share new and meaningful ways to connect! [Learn more by visiting the conference webpage.](#)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Advising Community on Graduate & Professional Students offers the **GPS (Graduate and Professional Students) Talks Series!** This online meeting series is offered three times per year: March, June, and September.

September 2020 GPS Talk: Given the recent announcement regarding NACADA's Annual Conference going virtual, we are reexamining the September 2020 GPS Talk to ensure that the content does not conflict and is not redundant with conference presentation offerings. An update on the final status of the September 2020 GPS Talk will be shared shortly.



Contact Us

Advising Community on Advising Graduate & Professional Students

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Get Connected

Follow us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/gradadvising/>

Subscribe to our Listserv:

listserv@listserv.ksu.edu

Bookmark our webpage:

<https://nacada.ksu.edu/Community/Advising-Communities/Advising-Graduate-Professional-Students.aspx>

NACADA REGION AWARDS

The NACADA Region Awards Program is now accepting applications until Sunday, November 1, 2020. [Apply](#) for this great opportunity to receive recognition and possible funding to attend not only region conferences, but other NACADA opportunities.

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 30, 2020: Deadline to register for the September eTutorial offerings.

[Learn more.](#)

September 1, 2020: Deadline to submit for consideration for the December 2020 edition of *Academic Advising Today*. [Learn more.](#)

September 9, 2020: 2021 NACADA Leadership Election nominations will open on September 9, 2020. Nominations will be accepted through October 31, 2020.

Through September 10, 2020: Sign up for the 2020-21 academic year to participate in a NACADA Writing Support Group. [Learn more about and sign up.](#)

October 4-7, 2020: NACADA's 2020 Virtual Annual Conference will be held. Check the [conference website](#) to register and learn more.

November 1, 2020: Application deadline for NACADA Region Awards. [Learn more.](#)

June 21-24, 2021: NACADA International Conference in Athens, Greece. The International Conference is scheduled to be held from June 21-24, 2021 in Athens, Greece. [Learn more.](#)

