

MY LEADERSHIP JOURNEY

Name:

Allison Ewing-Cooper

Institution:

University of Arizona

Institution Location:

Tucson, AZ

Years Advising: **18**

Years in NACADA: **12**

What made you decide to take the next step of being more involved with NACADA?

As an active member of NACADA since 2012, I know firsthand the positive impact of NACADA on an academic advisor. I enjoy finding new avenues to give back to the organization that has given me so much professional and personal growth. I really appreciate meeting new people and supporting other advisors realize their goals. It's so important that advisors receive the mentorship, training, and support to persist in the field, and I am excited to get involved as much as I can.

Based on your experiences, what advice would you have for someone considering getting involved in NACADA leadership? (please be specific, referring to a specific leader role)

Do it! Start with something small. Most active NACADA members I know first read proposals for a Region or Annual Conference. Then, consider submitting a presentation proposal (ask a coworker to join you). Attend a conference and learn about the different ways to get involved. Then, pick one Advising Community, Committee, or Advisory Board to join. Also, always look for ways to get involved with your Region!

What is your proudest accomplishment in a NACADA leadership role?

In 2024, my co-worker and dear friend, Kami Merrifield, and I were co-chairs for the Region 10 Conference. It was one of the most rewarding and enjoyable experiences of my professional life. Over 400 advisors attended the conference and so many of them took the time to tell Kami and me how much they enjoyed the conference. At the closing ceremony, we got a standing ovation. It was an incredible experience I will cherish the rest of my life.

LEADERSHIP POSITIONS HELD:

- Co-Chair, NACADA Region 10 Conference
- 2024-2026: Region 10 Chair
- 2024-2026: Emerging Leaders Mentor
- Will give 30th NACADA presentation at the Annual Conference in Pittsburgh, PA
- 2022-2024: NACADA Region 10 Four Year Arizona Representative
- 2021-2023: NACADA Annual Conference Advisory Board Member
- Published first article in Academic Advising Today
- Region 10 Mentor
- Won Vanguard Award for Original Advising Theory and Practice, NACADA Region 10
- Reviewed NACADA conference proposals for the first time
- Won NACADA Outstanding Advisor Certificate of Merit
- Joined NACADA. Attended first Region 10 Conference in Provo, UT and gave first presentation
- Attended first Annual NACADA Conference in Nashville, TN