

MY LEADERSHIP JOURNEY

Name:

Cara Wetzel

Institution:

Purdue University

Institution Location:

West Lafayette, IN

Years Advising: **27**

Years in NACADA: **16**

Tell us about your journey to your first NACADA leadership position.

It was Indiana's turn to host the Region 5 conference and a group from Purdue decided that we should host it on campus. I volunteered to be part of the conference committee. It was working with our region chair planning that I learned about the regional leadership roles. The Indiana Liaison was up for election that year, and I decided to try it out. The rest is history!

How did you build your NACADA network of people?

Being a state liaison helped introduce me to some of the leaders in Region 5. I met past region chairs and others who have played a part in shaping the region. I had familiar faces in the crowd when I went to conferences. These familiar faces grew over the years, as colleagues moved on from Purdue to other institutions and new people stepped up into region leadership roles. My network grew with every new friend and connection I made.

What is your favorite NACADA memory?

I have two favorite memories that are of a similar vein. The first was when a colleague and I were presenting on the connections between Strengths based coaching and Appreciative Advising. Jenny Bloom walked into our session and we almost fainted in awe. The second was this past year at Orlando presenting a poster. It was based on a chapter about Major Changers written by George Steele and he came up and read our poster and said we did a good job.

LEADERSHIP POSITIONS HELD:

2023 — 2023-Present Region 5 Chair

2022 — 2022-2023 Indiana State Liaison
— Region 5 Conference Co-Chair

2021 — Filled in vacancy for Indiana State Liaison

2018 — Filled in vacancy for Indiana State Liaison

2015 — Region 5 Conference Committee Member

2009 — 2009-2011 Indiana State Liaison
— Region 5 Conference Committee Member