



# Advising Community on Graduate & Professional Students

Newsletter June 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 June issue of the GPS Newsletter! This month, the theme of the newsletter is onboarding of new students. We continue to grapple with this new reality in higher education, and anticipate many campuses returning back in fall to fully online or hybrid models. We want to provide you with some resources as you begin to plan for fall (and beyond) to help students feel a sense of community and belonging no matter the platform.

## PUBLICATION SPOTLIGHT

As we prepare to welcome students to campus in person, virtually, or in some combination of both, it is critical that we think about how we can best engage our graduate students, create a sense of belonging, and set them off on the right foot. This month, we have two articles to provide insight on how advisors can create environments for new graduate students that will help propel them towards success.

The first [article](#), "Predicting Sense of Community among Graduate Students in a Distance Learning Environment," written by Beeson et al. (2019), discusses the need for more interactivity within distance programs and how "programs [are] searching for methods to increase interactivity and sense of community" (Beeson et al., 2019, p. 746). For many of us now working in a virtual environment, it can be helpful to examine our programs and the opportunities that we provide to meet our students' "...desire to connect with their peers, instructors, and advisors in some capacity" (Beeson et al., 2019, p. 747).

The second [article](#) titled "Engage Graduate Students on Your Campus: Tools for Academic and Faculty Advisors" by Bernstine, Martin, and Peden (2014) presents ways to use social integration and peer relationships to build graduate student success. Some suggestions they expand on include peer mentoring, the creation of an advising syllabus, and focus on communication.



## MEMBER HIGHLIGHT



*Courtney Lewellen,  
Indiana University  
School of Medicine*

My name is Courtney Lewellen and I am a member on the Advising Community on Graduate & Professional Students steering committee. I currently work at the Indiana University School of Medicine, where I have been a Lead Advisor for the past five years. I have over 17 years of advising experience, including for other professional and graduate programs. In my current role, I advise a cohort of medical students from matriculation to graduation/residency on academic progress, career development, wellness and connection to our program.

As a member of NACADA for several years, I have presented for the regional and national conferences, participated as a mentor in the Region 5 Mentoring Program, read proposals for national conferences, and participated in awards review. I currently also serve as a member of the Health Professions Advising Community steering committee. Last but, certainly not least, I am enjoying my role of Chair of the NACADA Region 5 Mentoring Program.

I have enjoyed the opportunity that the Advising Community on Graduate & Professional Students has provided me to connect with other members who have a commitment to the success of their graduate and professional students. This community offers us the space to really explore best practices and experiences in working with our graduate students that is sometimes difficult to come by. In this way, it provides a true community to share and work together. Please feel free to reach me at [cblewell@iu.edu](mailto:cblewell@iu.edu) if this community can better support you in your role of advising graduate and professional students!

## WRITING FOR PUBLICATION

As a reminder, NACADA offers a Writing Support Group that will provide you with the opportunity to connect with other writers across the advising profession. Not only will you receive valuable and worthwhile feedback, you will gain insight into the research and writing process of your colleagues. The Writing Support Group will assist you in maintaining accountability in your pursuit to make sufficient progress on your projects.

Writing Support Groups are organized based on your needs within the writing process and meet virtually via Zoom. You can choose a group that fits your place in the writing process. Signup for the 2020-21 academic year is now open through August 15, 2020. [Sign up to participate in a Writing Support Group](#). Once you 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. Groups will be autonomous and can plan subsequent meetings and regularity based on the group's needs.

[Learn more about Writing Support Groups](#).

## PARTICIPATE IN FORTHCOMING SURVEY

Shelley Price-Williams, NACADA Advising Communities Division (ACD) Cluster 2 Representative, and Jamie Heck, NACADA Advising Community on Graduate & Professional Students Chair, have been approved to disseminate a survey to all NACADA members and non-members. Inspired by the NACADA Graduate Student Advising Commission Membership Survey conducted in 2006, Shelley and Jamie seek to add to the research and literature focused on non-faculty, full-time professionals who academically advise graduate and professional students. The research question is: What are the roles and functions of non-faculty, full-time professionals who academically advise graduate and professional students in postsecondary education and strategies employed by these individuals to combat student attrition? This survey is slated to be disseminated via email during the week of June 22, 2020.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

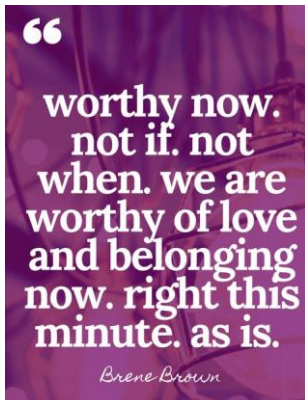
The Advising Community on Graduate & Professional Students offers the **GPS (Graduate and Professional Students) Talks Series!** This online meeting series is offered three times per year: March, June, and September.

Our June 2020 GPS Talk online meeting is entitled "Step One: Onboarding." This online meeting will be held on **Tuesday, June 16, 2020 from 1:00- 2:00 p.m. ET**. Melissa Brown (Carnegie Mellon University), Allyssa Finder (University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign), Kyle McCool (Webster University), Colleen Rose (Indiana University), Katelyn Talbott (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign), and Rafael Almanzar (Texas A&M University) will be presenters for this online meeting. We hope you will be able to attend! Please share this information with colleagues and encourage their virtual attendance. There is no registration or fee associated with this online meeting. The recording of this online meeting will be accessible after the online session is held via the [Advising Community on Graduate & Professional Students webpage](#) and shared via the community listserv.

**Join via Zoom here:** <https://ksu.zoom.us/j/528591841>

**September 2020 GPS Talk:** Planning is underway for the September 2020 GPS Talk. Further details, including date/time and topic, will be shared in the near future.





## Contact Us

### Advising Community on Graduate & Professional Students

#### Current Community Chair:

[Jamie Heck](#), University of Cincinnati

#### Newsletter Editors:

[Courtney Lewellen](#), Indiana University

[Dawn Loyola](#), University of California, Riverside

#### Get Connected

##### Follow us on Facebook:

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

##### Subscribe to our Listserv:

[listserv@listserv.ksu.edu](mailto:listserv@listserv.ksu.edu)

##### Bookmark our webpage:

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS

From June 2020-August 2020: NACADA is offering eTutorials that provide participants short-term, readily-available, introductory online learning about the field of academic advising. [Learn more and Register.](#)

From June 2020-August 15, 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 Annual Conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico! [Register](#) early to take advantage of the early rate, and make your [hotel reservation](#) as soon as possible for the best rates and availability! Check the [conference website](#) often for the latest updates.

June 21-24, 2021: NACADA International Conference in Athens, Greece. The 2020 International Conference in Athens has been postponed. The International Conference is now scheduled to be held from June 21-24, 2021 in Athens, Greece. [Learn more.](#)