



Advising Community on Graduate & Professional Students

Newsletter November 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 November issue of the GPS Newsletter!

PUBLICATION SPOTLIGHT

This month's spotlight article is a follow up from NACADA's Webinar this month on "Advising Black Male Students in 2020 and Beyond." The article, written by Mark S. Nelson, Locksley Knibbs, Quentin R. Alexander, Darryl C. Cherry, Bill Johnson, and Joshua Johnson (2020), focuses on "...improving and strengthening the Black male student academic advising experience." While the article references challenges of first time in college Black male students, it offers a way for all advisors supporting any program or level with the means for creating a safe and welcoming space for Black male students. You can read the article in NACADA's *Academic Advising Today* [here](#).

MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

Hi – my name is Kyle McCool and I am the Senior Director of Academic Advising at Webster University, working with both our graduate and undergraduate advising teams. I came to Webster in 2015 as the Director of Graduate Advising, though my role has changed since that time. Our graduate advising team provides academic advising to students at our locations across the U.S. including many active duty military students and veterans. We also have a large online student population made up of working professionals in programs such as the MBA, Management and Leadership, Cybersecurity, among others. They stay quite busy! I've been involved in the world of academic advising for close to 20 years.

I first joined NACADA as an advising graduate assistant in 2002, with the opportunity to get involved and take chances. My participation has ranged from presentations at various regional and national conferences, attendance at NACADA institutes, being recognized as an award winner, reading conference proposals, presenting in webinars, and joining advising communities like this one. As I've grown and developed as an advisor, and as my role has become less direct student contact and more administrative, my connection to NACADA has deepened and become more important to me as I continue to be challenged and grow as a professional.

Recently our institution launched a Global Advising Council (thanks for a NACADA Institute) and is working on a new Faculty Advisor Training course. NACADA's resources and connections have been invaluable to our planning and development. It is my hope to find continued opportunities for growth but also to give back to the NACADA Community. I'd love to connect with YOU so we can learn from each other and find ways to continue the body of work available specifically for graduate students. Send me a note at kylemccool50@webster.edu and I hope our paths cross in person soon.

PROFESSIONAL OUTSIDE RESOURCE

This month, we are highlighting The American Educational Research Association (AERA). Founded in 1916, AERA is concerned with improving the educational process by encouraging scholarly inquiry related to education and evaluation and by promoting the dissemination and practical application of research results. Within the AERA community of education researchers, members belong to one or more of the 12 divisions and over 155 special interest groups (SIGs). In addition, the AERA Consortium of University and Research Institutions provides a forum for academic institutions, departments, non-university-based research institutions, and professional associations to share information about federal education research issues, people, and events, as well as to be engaged in shaping policy with regard to significant research issues. [Learn more](#) about AERA.

NACADA 2021 VIRTUAL REGION CONFERENCES

The call for concurrent conference proposal submissions for NACADA's 2021 Virtual Region Conferences is now open. Concurrent session proposals are due on November 30, 2020 by 11:59 p.m. Central Time. [Learn more](#) about the respective virtual region conferences and the proposal submission process. Thank you for representing our advising community (and providing a voice to the graduate and professional students we support)!

NACADA 2021 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Are you eager to share your knowledge and experiences with others? Do you dream of being able to attend a presentation focused on graduate and professional students for each session of a conference one day? This is your opportunity to ensure that topics related to graduate and professional students are offered at the NACADA 2021 Annual Conference that will be held October 6-9, 2021 in Cincinnati, Ohio. The call for proposals for the NACADA 2021 Annual Conference opens on December 11, 2020. The deadline to submit a conference proposal is February 18, 2021. [Learn more](#) about the conference and proposal submission process as additional information is added to the website.

WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR THIS YEAR?

In our October 2020 newsletter, we asked our advising community members and friends to share what they are giving thanks for this year. Many thanks to those who shared their gratitude. We hope that the inclusion of this section in our newsletter encourages our readers to reflect on what they are thankful for this year.

Lindsey Taucher- What a tricky time to count our blessings! As I reflect on 2020, I am mindful of many things for which I am grateful that include:

- the physical and mental health of my family
- my daughters' love of school continuing, even in a remote format since March
- a partner who is an equal partner in our home and marriage
- continued employment in higher education after my institution cut nearly 10% of its employees in May
- others' ability to find the good in each other, while so many still struggle against each other
- the ability for this pandemic and Black Lives Matter and a Presidential campaign to cause us as humans to find new ways to live and thrive

Allyssa Finder- I am thankful for a two story house where my husband and I can work on separate floors through COVID. I am also very thankful for family and friends on facetime!

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.

March 2021 GPS Talk: Planning is underway for the March 2021 GPS Talk. Further details, including date/time and topic, will be shared in the future.

Contact Us

Advising Community on Graduate & Professional Students

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