From the Chair

Happy National Poetry Month!

I would love for you to read [in Just-], by E. E. Cummings. I once attended a NACADA “self-care” session in Atlanta, GA, that was focused on evaluating poetry as it applies to our advising. As a lover of poetry, I was inspired by the creativity of the presenter, and discovered that conference sessions can center around passions we have outside of advising.

What is your passion? What drives you to create and love? Let this be your guiding force in the coming weeks as you are likely feeling overwhelmed by our work and current events. Take time to breathe and check on your loved ones.

As always, thank you for your support, and let me know how this Community can support you.
Christina Bowles, Chair
Missouri State University
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Member Spotlight

Kimberly Knowles (she/her/hers)
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Academic Success Coach and Director of Developmental and Exploratory Advising Programs
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How long have you been supporting undecided/exploratory students?
15+ Years, the last 10+ as part of our Center for Academic and Student Achievement and chair of our Explore Your Path committee for supporting undecided/exploratory students.

Why did you join the Undecided and Exploratory Students Advising Community?
I appreciate the opportunity to hear what colleagues at other campuses are doing to support undecided and exploratory students. I am rarely able to make it to a conference these days, so I love that this committee has been creative in finding ways to connect and share tips virtually!

What makes you excited to work with Undeclared/Exploratory students?
I’m always fascinated by the possibilities that students have to choose from. I enjoy brainstorming creative ways to help students combine their interests, skills, values, and personalities into options for majors and careers. And, I feel that I make a difference in the world at large through my students because they go out and change the world in their own unique ways that we crafted together.

What is the greatest challenge in working with this population?
Students are rarely available to attend live events in-person or via Zoom so when we offer workshops, they are poorly attended. I find that students are often in "decision crisis" mode in an intense way in a short amount of time, so it’s easier to connect with them one-on-one and help them that way - but that takes a lot of staff time and resources and sometimes when it’s busy, we can’t get students in immediately. To help with that issue, we’ve created our Explore Your Path portal to help put ideas and resources at students’ fingertips so if they are inspired to explore at 3 am in the morning, they can visit our website and do that right as the moment strikes!
What is one fun fact about you?
In addition to being a working mom and dancing for exercise, I love singing karaoke online using the Smule singing app. Check out a playlist of my favorite recordings, or come sing with me for stress relief on Smule - my profile name is SingerMamaSF!

Do you want to introduce yourself to other community members? Sign up with our online form.

Updates
Please welcome our new Advising Community Chair, Myc Wiatrowski! They will transition into the new role and officially take the helm in October.

Our Web Resources subcommittee has been working diligently to update our website. Please check it out and let us know if you have suggestions!

Exploratory Conversations
If you are interested in presenting at an Exploratory Conversation, email Philip Aguinaga: philip.aguinaga@unt.edu

Resources
Check out our Google Drive for resources. Join our List Serv