From the Chair

Happy 2022!

I hope everyone had a good holiday season. While I don’t believe in New Year’s resolutions per se, I have decided to be more intentional in my relationships with others (in addition to performing a stand-up routine). My NACADA family has brought me so much joy these last ten years, and I want to pay it forward. I hope all who have resolutions find ways of sticking with them, and keep fighting the good fight!

Christina Bowles, Chair
Missouri State University
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Member Spotlight

Maureen Bell-Werner (she/her/hers)
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
Assistant Registrar for Curriculum Management & Academic Scheduling
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How long have you been supporting undecided/exploratory students?
I was an academic advisor for 9 years working with undeclared and exploratory students. For four years, I served as an assistant director for first-year services, focusing on transition to college. From 2018-2020, I was the chair of the Undecided & Exploratory Students Advising Community.

Why did you join the Undecided and Exploratory Students Advising Community?
I joined to learn more about how to support undecided and exploratory students. It was also a great professional development opportunity to chair an advising community and work with a steering committee.

What makes you excited to work with Undeclared/Exploratory students?
I love that they could be interested in any major! You never know when a student is going to ask what anthropology is or what minor might be best support their interests and goals. They are a fun population trying to figure it all out and we get to support them in their journey!

What is the greatest challenge in working with this population?
There is so much pressure to decide and have an idea or plan for their future. It can be difficult to support a student taking time to make decisions when they get pressure from others to decide quickly. Also general education can sometimes be so specific to major curriculum that it is hard to carve out semesters for students to explore without knowing some of those courses may not be able to count towards requirements once the student decides on a path.

What is one fun fact about you?
I love kickboxing!

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

Upcoming Events

Exploratory Conversation
Our next Exploratory Conversation will be February 16th, 2:30 PM CST
The topic is “I don’t know, what can you do with a major in...”
Moderated by Art Esposito, Cape Cod Community College
Sign up through the NACADA Next Week newsletter

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

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