

## MICHELE APPEGATE – Region 2 Awards Chair Platform Statement

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From the moment I became a member of NACADA in the fall of 2015, I knew that academic advising is the field I belong in. My involvement in NACADA started with presenting and volunteering at the 2016 Region 2 and NJ Drive In Conferences, although I quickly found additional ways to stay connected as a proposal reader and by writing a book review. This continual involvement speaks to the community that NACADA provides its members, where getting involved is highly encouraged and sought. This past year has been an exciting one for my involvement in NACADA, in which I served as the Communications Team Lead for the 2018 NJ Drive-In Conference and am now serving as the 2019 Poster Presentation Chair for the Region 2 Conference in Atlantic City. I also wrote a nomination for the Region 2 Advising Administrator Award and was excited to find out that my nominee, Jarrett Kealey, had been awarded a certificate of merit in this category. Each new opportunity has given me invaluable experience and professional connections, as well as the confidence to pursue election as the Region 2 Awards Chair.

I truly believe that good academic advising is the cornerstone to student success and NACADA unequivocally embodies this student-centered mindset. However, being student-centered also means there needs to be an emphasis on supporting, developing, and *recognizing* the professionals in this field because without cultivating them, our students would not experience the same level of advising. This is why I find the position of Region 2 Awards Chair so crucial. Advisors give so much of themselves to their students, institutions, and organizations like NACADA because at the heart of it they want to make a difference and help others. This giving nature can be exhaustive and receiving an award or even a nomination can provide an advisor with a renewed sense of purpose and validation. I was recently recognized as a 2018 Outstanding New Academic Advisor in a Primary Role as a certificate of merit award winner and can speak firsthand to how deeply touching it was to be nominated, as well as to how this recognition energizes me to do more in my current role and to find ways to show my appreciation to others. I would love to be the Region 2 Awards Chair to be part of recognizing the hard work that academic advisors put in day in and day out, as well as to facilitate giving scholarships to those that otherwise may not be able to attend NACADA conferences. If selected, I will work with the Region 2 Awards Selection Committee to find new and innovative ways to recognize the diverse advising professionals in NACADA. I feel that my experience and my passion for giving back to NACADA's members would make me an excellent fit for the Region 2 Awards Chair and I thank you for your consideration.