I did not begin my professional career in higher education, but when circumstances brought me to Auburn University in 1999, my first job with the university was serving as the liaison between the administrators of the student information system and the system’s functional users. In that capacity I learned a great deal about the vital nature of technology in the successful execution of the myriad of jobs that support students and their academic endeavors. As much as we are a profession that relies on the human interactions between student and advisor, we have also become dependent upon technology to provide students with the accurate, timely data-driven analytical information to boost retention, progress through their curricula and ultimately, graduation.

In the new normal of remote instruction and online learning, the use of technology is critical for advisors to be able to serve their students. We are fortunate to have access to dedicated platforms to manage appointments, audit degree progression and allow students to interact with us from all over the country, as if they were in offices.

As the Region 4 chair of the technology and training steering committee, I am committed to supporting the use of technology and to working with the NACADA leadership to ensure that the membership of the region has access to the best practices and maintain the conceptual, informational and relational core competencies that make effective advisors.