

When I first became an academic adviser nearly 7 years ago, I didn't know anyone in the college or where to turn for resources so I joined NACADA. I requested a mentor to help me with achieving my goals of being involved in the organization. Due to the tremendous insight she provided, I have presented, mentored, read proposals and am on numerous steering committees. There are many more people like myself starting out in academic advising that want to help others but need help themselves. We are community built on helping others and the mentoring program fits this need. Region 4 has incredible academic advisers, both new and seasoned, who can help each other. Newly hired academic advisers want and need guidance to excel in the advising community and seasoned advisers want to give back. The mentoring program needs more amazing people like yourself who want to participate. My goal is to have the mentoring program to be a model for other regions to follow. To achieve this goal, I would first focus on recruiting more academic advisers whether by social media and/or word of mouth. Next, I would request feedback from the current mentors/mentees to determine what worked and what didn't to improve the program. Lastly, I would make myself readily available to anybody either interested or currently in the mentoring program. I believe it is critical for leadership to be involved for a program to do well. The Region 4 mentoring program is the best kept secret that should not be kept a secret any longer.