

# Nominees for Diversity

Laura Brubaker-Wittman

## *Why do you want to be on the Region 10 Steering Committee?*

With a background in social justice education and advocacy, as well as community development, I see the topic of equity and inclusion as not just important to our work as academic advisors, but vital to it. I believe that we must go above and beyond the idea of diversity to make sure that not only is NACADA Region 10 representative of people from various backgrounds, experiences, and identities, but gives a voice to all, especially those who have been underrepresented and unheard in the past. I also want to explore ways in which we can actively bring inclusive pedagogy to advising, especially to support our underserved students to succeed and find a welcoming advising community at our Region 10 campuses and institutions.

## *What do you bring for the position(s) you are applying for?*

I am currently the head of the Equity and Inclusion Committee for the Academic Advising Center (AAC) here at CU Boulder. The campus is pushing to create and implement an Inclusive Excellence plan that the AAC has been actively participating in, as well as exploring how we can internally improve how we serve our underrepresented students. I have been involved with arts and theatre for social justice for over 10 years on multiple campuses, and hold a Master's degree in International Sustainable Development with a concentration in Community Development. I proactively continue to examine and question my own identities that bring both privilege and oppression, and to work to use that privilege in a way that can make space for those voices which have not been heard. I see social justice and social change work as a constantly educational journey, in which there is always something more to learn from others. I have been working with the NACADA Diversity Committee for the last year, helping to organize and implement the Diversity Chats on the Region 10 Facebook page.

Alec Down

## *Why do you want to be on the Region 10 Steering Committee?*

Brown, Collins, and Duiguid (1989) argued that all learning is situated—learning is an integral part of the context in which it takes place, and knowledge is therefore created in relation to the discourse. Therefore, advising is no longer a matter of simply bestowing objective truths on to the advisee, but rather it is creating a space of learning which allows students to experience their own “aha” moments. As an academic advisor, it is my primary mission is to create safe spaces for students as they navigate their own learning. Part of creating these safe spaces, is working with other advisors and advising offices in order to learn from and grow with each other. By serving on the Steering Committee I hope that I will have the opportunity to learn from advisors at different institutions, while also bringing in my own knowledge and experience.

## *What do you bring for the position(s) you are applying for?*

I embrace the responsibilities for advisors as given in the NACADA Statement of Core Values, and commit to being knowledgeable about my program, my institution, and various theories of advising as I assist my students. I respect the rights of students to trust in their advisor's confidentiality, to know when to involve others in the advising process, and to seek out necessary resources. I encourage self-reliance among my students, to help them make their own responsible decisions, and to think critically about new ideas.

I consider myself not only an advising professional but also an academic. I am committed to developing research in the field of advising, as well as taking an academic interest in the process of advising my students. I am a practitioner, but I am also a scholar. Yet, I understand theories can simplify the complex realities of praxis in the advising office, and therefore I equip myself with a toolbox of ideas and theories that I can customize and integrate as the student develops his/her/their own narrative.

I currently serve on the editorial board of the NACADA Journal, and am actively engaged in research and scholarship in order to further develop the field of advising as an academic profession.

**Marcos Enriquez**

*Why do you want to be on the Region 10 Steering Committee?*

I have been advising for 3 years at ASU and before that, worked 4 years at undergrad admissions at the UA. Now that I have become more comfortable in my advising role & responsibilities, I would like to go deeper in advising and contribute to the community as a whole.

*What do you bring for the position(s) you are applying for?*

I have held other positions within professional organizations and have developed a path goal leadership style. I take this style in collaborations with teams and focus on what can be done moving forward instead of what has hindered progress in the past. As a representative, I will make my opinions known and do my best to be a voice for the advising communities I represent.

**José Valdez**

*Why do you want to be on the Region 10 Steering Committee?*

I would like to continue developing as a professional and connect with other advisors who share similar interests

*What do you bring for the position(s) you are applying for?*

Passionate about Education, Access, Multicultural/Diversity Issues, & Community Engagement. Have volunteered my time helping 1st gen students develop college entrance essays, Have screened applications for scholarships in Service Learning and our Latinx Center. I teach a 1st year seminar guiding students to explore their strengths, values, interests, beliefs, etc.