

# Nominees for Mentoring Program

Brandan Lowden

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

I am passionate about college student success. I believe our students are best served when we advisors are actively engaged and participating in professional development. I want to continue serving Region 10, collaborating with my advising colleagues across the region to develop professional enrichment opportunities for all of us.

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

I bring ten years experience as an academic advisor and college instructor. I am passionate about college students! I have served as a mentor in the Region 10 mentoring program for three years. I have participated in NACADA's Emerging Leaders Program for the past two years and will be a mentor for the upcoming ELP class. The greatest professional excitement for me is to see my mentees thrive and achieve their goals.

I look forward to serving Region 10!

Stephanie Miller

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

My interest in serving on the Region 10 steering committee comes from my dedication to this field and passion for bettering the student experience. After personally suffering from inadequate advising experiences, I became an academic advisor and member of NACADA in 2012. I immediately sought out professional development for myself and my colleagues through participation in NACADA sponsored events as often as my supervisor would allow. Through these NACADA opportunities I found a network of colleagues and a wealth of resources dedicated to empowering and educating our students, and I knew I had to be part of it. I was able to present on marketing design and copyright at 2013 NACADA Region 7 conference, and I enthusiastically served on the Region 7 conference committee in 2014. I also had the honor of presenting at the 2013 NACADA national conference with a sponsorship from the Technology in Advising Commission. While beneficial to the cause, these opportunities were fleeting. Serving on the Region 10 steering committee would allow me to consistently be a voice for my colleagues while positively affecting those in our discipline, the students we serve, and the institutions we represent.

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

One of the best ways to increase our collective advising knowledge and set new generations of advisors up for success is through the NACADA mentoring model. I would very much enjoy being an influential part of this valuable offering for members, and I would bring useful skills to the administration of the Region 10 Mentoring Program to increase awareness, growth, and participant satisfaction. Please allow me to elaborate.

The biggest part of the program is the ability to offer multiple learning and networking opportunities to the mentors and mentees throughout the year. I have multiple years of experience in developing, coordinating, and executing a wide range of educational and celebratory events for 10-200 attendees, which should transition well into the management of this program. I am experienced in space and materials management, instructor facilitation, and catering management. I was also named the co-chair for the Student Success Symposium national conference in 2015, where I was responsible for staff direction, negotiating speakers' fees and schedules, and attendee feedback.

My communications experience (proven success in professional marketing and advertising) would be useful in creating a communication strategy and plan for the mentoring pairs throughout the year to

ensure engagement and decrease missed chances for professional development. I also possess an extreme attention to detail and know how to organize large projects with multiple complex parts. I have experience assigning and working with student mentoring cohorts, tracking their successes, and comparing outcomes to control groups, all of which could be applied the Region 10 Mentoring Program.

Camelia Naranjo

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

I have a lifelong passion and commitment to students and those who help guide and support students. I want to be a part of helping grow and develop programs that can lead to student success. I believe being on the Region 10 Steering Committee, I can bring best practices as well as learn and advocate for services that can help students, and those supporting students, be successful.

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

I believe the skills and experience I bring surrounding mentoring will help me to be successful in this position. I have been; a mentee, a mentor, and a developer of a mentoring program. I would like to be able to use my experiences to help support the mentors and mentees in their learning and growth in their professional lives. I would also like to be able to use this experience as a way to build relationships with others committed to this work within the Region.

Dana Parcher

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

My name is Dana Parcher and in my previous experiences serving on steering committees, I have always found them very rewarding! The opportunity to build stronger relationships with talented professionals is invaluable to me, especially having just moved to Colorado this past May. Additionally, I have participated in NACADA events in the past, but want to do more and become more than just a participant, but a contributor to the community. Lastly, I'd like to join because it sounds fun! Apart from learning and hard work, I am a huge "nerd" who finds work like this fun and I would enjoy contributing to the growth and future success of NACADA.

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

Because I find serving on steering committees like these fun, this is not my first time having volunteered to do so. In my previous work experience, I have served on the Membership Committee as part of a nation-wide group of health professions advisors, as well as participated in and assisted in organizing a nation-wide mentor program for advisors. I also served in various other functions helping with our region and our state. I understand the time commitment involved and am willing to help. As a natural "gatherer of ideas and information", I also tend to help with areas such as research, development, and scholarship and am instinctively drawn to roles like these in just about all I do.

Niki Weight

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

Being an Exploratory academic advisor for more than five years has given me the opportunity to learn many advising strategies, develop and implement several tools and resources for students, present at NACADA conferences and serve within the advising community at Utah State University. Through serving on the Region 10 Steering Committee, I want to contribute to the advising community that has shaped and progressed my abilities as an academic advisor. I have experience in several advising areas including training and mentoring, technology and analytics, high achieving students, at-risk students, assessment and research, as well as career, life and major exploration. I believe I bring beneficial skills and the dedication to further the causes and goals of NACADA Region 10.

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

Over the past several years, I have had hands on experience in learning and utilizing a wide variety of technological tools in advising, such as Course Management Systems, online appointment schedulers, survey software, analytics software, Excel, data reporting tools and website implementations. I have a passion for using technology to better the advising experience for students and advisors alike.

Additionally, I have been in many positions to teach technological skills and tools to new and seasoned advisors. These experiences provide me a solid background to fulfill the Technology position on the Region 10 Steering Committee.

In addition to my passion for technology, I also have a desire to enhance the training new advisors receive when entering the advising profession. Through creating a new advisor online training course, I have had the opportunity to assist in the training and mentorship of several new advisors, student interns, and peer advisors. I am currently a mentor in the Region 10 NACADA Mentoring Program. I am passionate about the advising profession and striving to improve advisor skills and abilities. I wish to spread this passion to other advisors by serving in the Mentor position on the Region 10 Steering Committee.