

Nominees for Research & Scholarship

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.

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 nationwide group of health professions advisors, as well as participated in and assisted in organizing a nationwide 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.

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.

Kim Wright

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

I served on the steering committee from 2011-2013 and would love to do so again.

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

NACADA's vision is to promote student success by advancing the field of academic advising globally. I would hope to help Region 10 do the same in our region. Participating in NACADA is a great way to expand knowledge and create new experiences.