

## QUENTIN ALEXANDER-Platform

As a member of NACADA, and most recently, my selection to and participation in the 2016-18 Emerging Leaders Program, I understand the importance of mentoring new and continuing members in our region. My experience as an ELP mentee has been invaluable thus far. Mentorship is a valuable and needed resource that helps to promote efficacy as well as engagement in the NACADA organization. I have been involved in mentorships for as long as I can remember in my professional career and personal life. I would like nothing better than to share my experiences with NACADA Region 2 in this vein. I also realize that one of the most significant ways to encourage mentorship relationships is through the active recruitment of new members from diverse populations. For this reason I would like to give back to NACADA through service as the Region 2 Mentoring and Membership Coordinator.

As Mentoring and Membership Coordinator I would like to cast the net wide across Region 2 to encourage membership from institutions in areas that can be most impacted by membership in the NACADA organization. Specifically, targeting community and technical colleges and universities, and Historically Black Colleges and Universities as well as Hispanic Serving Institutions would be a strategy for diversifying membership not only from a structural standpoint, but from a perspective of identities that are often overlooked like those who serve high populations of first-generation and low socioeconomic students. Membership in NACADA would provide those institutions with advising personnel with valuable resources and support in their endeavors to work with these populations. I would seek to intentionally form partnerships and relationships with advising personnel of these and other institutions in region 2 who are not a part of NACADA. This might be accomplished by taking time to make personal contacts through telephone conversations, face to face contact where possible, and email correspondence. Additionally, informing institutions who do not have members represented in NACADA of the professional development activities (e.g., Region 2 Conference, state drive-ins and drive-outs) and engaging with them personally at these event would be a strategy for recruiting new memberships.

With regards to mentoring, I would like to conduct a regional assessment about the mentoring needs of our membership so that these relationships are targeted, sustainable and meaningful with specific and achievable goals. A main goal of mentorship program will be to connect seasoned members of NACADA with new members more frequently to provide guidance on ways to navigate the organization for maximal use at their institution. As well, mentorships will stress the importance of engagement and leadership on the regional, state, and national level. I would like to continue the NACADA Region 2 Mentor gathering at the regional conference, but possibly as a pre-conference workshop, where the synergy between mentors and mentees is the focus. Overall, I am a believer that engagement is key in these relationships so providing various platforms for engagement is vital to a successful mentorship relationship.

As the Region 2 Mentoring and Membership Coordinator I will work tirelessly to increase membership in combination with making membership more meaningful through the matching of new members with mentors. The goal would be to increase overall participation and representation.

