

Tennessee State Liaison Platform Statement

This is an exciting time for higher education in the state of Tennessee. We have implemented several programs to help encourage college enrollment and completion across the state, and our academic advising community plays a critical role in supporting these students. With each of these opportunities comes a new set of challenges. We must equip our advisors and institutions to transform what we do and how we do it to meet the needs of our students, our institutions, and our communities. As Tennessee continues to be at the forefront of college complete initiatives, I want to challenge us to lead the way in student support.

As the NACADA State Liaison for Tennessee, I am committed to encouraging and supporting membership growth. We need to engage with our colleagues across Tennessee in our shared mission to support our students. We can do this through on-going communication, professional development opportunities, and active participation in NACADA at a state, regional, and national level. Fostering these relationships amongst ourselves and key stakeholders can be a great benefit to us all. I am also committed to helping Tennessee support advisor reward and recognition. We know the dedication that each of you puts into your students, and it is important to recognize those efforts while sharing exemplary practices from across our state.

I currently work as an Assistant Director of the Center for Advisement at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga (UTC), and I've previously held several advisor positions at my current and former institutions. Over the past three years, I had the privilege of serving as Chair of the UTC Advisors' Council, which is an elected campus leadership position for academic advising. During my tenure as Chair, I was amazed at the work our campus advising body accomplished in developing an advisor training program, implementing an advising assessment process, and resolving roadblocks to student success. I welcome the opportunity to help other individuals promote and improve advising at their institutions across Tennessee.

My prior involvement and experiences with NACADA have proven to be invaluable to my daily work. I first joined NACADA in 2008 when I was new to my advisor role. Throughout the past nine years, I have presented at multiple regional and national conferences. I currently serve as the interim State Liaison for Tennessee. Previously, I served as Co-hospitality Chair for the Region 3 NACADA Conference in 2016, and I participated as a steering committee member for the 2017 regional conference. Additionally, I am a member of the following committees: Commission on Undecided and Exploratory Students, Assessment of Advising Commission, Advisor Training and Development Commission, and the Career Advising Interest Group.

Throughout my experiences in NACADA, I have learned more about our profession, our colleagues, and our students. In a field that supports the education and development of our students each day, it is important that we challenge ourselves to do this as well. I would love the opportunity to serve you as the NACADA State Liaison for Tennessee.