Embracing the Role of Academic Advising in Supporting Student Success

An understanding of how and why academic advising supports student progression and graduation success is essential to improving academic advising programs on your campus. Equally important is an understanding of how to translate what is said in the literature to institutional practice.

This plenary session will discuss the relationship between federal and state pressures on higher education juxtaposed against the importance of advising for student success. Broadly defined, the topics to be considered in this session include:

Tales from Academic Advising Administrators: What We Wish We Had Known

Gain insights from seasoned administrators. Learn what they wished they would have known as they advanced positions. Hear from administrators who started from faculty tracks, advisor positions, and other student affairs roles. Perspectives will include experience with community colleges, research universities, private institutions, and regional public institutions. Regardless of your role, come to this interactive panel discussion to learn from others how you might best prepare for your next role and/or how it might help you with your current role. Topics will include taking on new perspectives in new roles, transitioning from colleague to boss, time management and prioritization, and navigating one’s institutional structures.

Examining the Four NACADA Pillars: Look at Concept of Advising, NACADA Core Values, NACADA Core Competencies, and CAS Standards

The NACADA Pillar documents form the foundation of the profession of academic advising. Providing guiding principles, program standards, and ethical guidelines, these documents offer a solid foundation for creating, re-organizing, assessing, and improving academic advising programs, regardless of context. The session will begin with an overview of these foundational documents, including ways the facilitators have used them in their own work. Then, participants will discuss how the NACADA Concept of Academic Advising, the Core Values, the Core Competencies, and the CAS Standards might be used to address challenges commonly faced by today’s advising administrators.

Collaborations Across Campuses

Come to this interactive session to hear how Academic Advisors and Administrators have navigated their institutional structures and developed and/or worked to strengthen relationships within and across their institution. You will hear presenters talk about the successes and struggles for collaboration on their campuses, dealing with their institution's politics, history, and cultures, and discuss strategies on dealing with all of it. Participants will be given a worksheet to use as this will be a “working session.”

Advising Competencies: Development, Implementation and Assessment

Academic advisors fulfill various roles and responsibilities while supporting student success at their institution. The creation of academic advising competencies by utilizing your institution’s specific roles and responsibilities, and incorporating NACADA’s new Academic Advising Core Competencies Guide, will enhance the overall effectiveness and relevancy of your training and development program. This interactive session will provide a foundation for identifying the content for a competency based academic advisor training and development program.