

Rasha Tawfik

My name is Rasha Tawfik and I work as a student advisor in the Haskayne School of Business at the University of Calgary.

In my current capacity, I deal with admissions, recruitment, program and student advising, academic reviews and probation, scholarships and awards, and work on special projects as required by my faculty. I am a Certified Career Development Professional from the Career Development Association of Alberta, hold a Bachelor of Business Administration from the American University in Cairo, achieved a Career and Academic Advising certificate from the University of Calgary, and have over fifteen years of student advising experience in the academia.

After obtaining my bachelor's degree, I really had no idea that my career will take me to the field of student advising, which I am now totally compassionate about. The formative years of my career started at the American Community School in Abu Dhabi as an assistant guidance counsellor. Moving to Calgary almost nine years ago and joining the University of Calgary, my job in the academic advising field became more evolved, and I have grown to love and appreciate the role of academic advising. I am fortunate to have a fulfilling academic advising job here, and to have also been able to work for a period of six months in the University of Calgary, Qatar Campus.

I feel grateful to have had all the experiences I have had during my career in all these various places. Serving in different areas of the world and in these several academia settings has fossilized one realization: **We make a huge difference! Advisors make a difference, and I am thrilled to be part of it.**

Being a part of the advising difference for me is collaborative with being part of NACADA. I have attended two of the NACADA Region 8 conferences and found that the skills, information, and expertise shared in the conferences are invaluable. As many times that I can, I have attended NACADA webinars; that has somehow made up for the inability to attend as many of the conferences as I wished I could.

More now than ever, Alberta is becoming a more diversely cultural province. The University of Calgary and similar institutions all across Alberta have students and staff from all over the globe. Raised up in an American community school, and having the many different exposures I had in my career as an adult, allows me to both connect with both the local clientele, and be able to understand what our increasingly diverse student population needs, and what we need to get through to the many varied students we have. Similarly, I know I would also be able to build a positive rapport with all my colleagues from the different institutions across Alberta, regardless of the different backgrounds. I feel I have an understanding of what it will take to bring together and promote Academic Advising throughout our province Alberta, and to work in coordinating our roles and efforts here and align them with the goals and initiatives of NACADA.