

Sarah Kinch

As an Academic Advisor I am an advocate for students, a communicator, a facilitator and an agent of referral available to help students navigate their way through the University's policies and procedures. If you have ever read my cover letter this statement may sound familiar, it is basically my professional mission statement, which I would apply to the Alberta Liaison role. I strongly believe in the importance of professional development opportunities as a means to stay current and to better our professional practice.

The liaison role is not only a professional development opportunity for myself but an opportunity to advocate for the profession within the province of Alberta and Region 8 as a whole. One of my goals as the Alberta Liaison is to promote and encourage NACADA membership for academic advisors at all post secondary institutions in Alberta. This is a lofty goal but to me it is quite simple; NACADA members have access to affordable professional development opportunities that are otherwise non-existent.

I was introduced to NACADA and the importance of being a member at the start of my career as an Academic Advisor. I have since been fortunate to work in advising offices in both British Columbia and Alberta which have promoted and encouraged my involvement in NACADA as well as other professional associations. In 2011 I was on the organizing committee and presented at the Region 8 Conference in Calgary. In 2012 and 2013 NACADA supported the Alberta Advising Symposium. Both events were quite successful and it would be my hope that we could continue to organize events like these in the future. In 2014 I attended the Region 8 conference in Vancouver. I have also attended countless NACADA webinars with other advisors at Mount Royal University. I value the opportunity to share ideas and learn from others, NACADA provides this opportunity.