

Miranda Atkinson

I have worked as an academic advisor for the past six and half years, more recently taking on the additional roles of career advisor and assistant director in my advising unit. After attending four Region 8 and two national conferences, I truly believe that our region contains a wealth of passionate, intelligent, and innovative advisors (Eight is Great!). I leave regional conferences inspired by the presentations I attend, refreshed by my colleagues' humor, and energized to live up to the high quality of advising Region 8 proudly upholds.

In addition to attending NACADA conferences, I have presented at the regional and national levels, volunteered at multiple conferences, and served on conference planning committees. My presentations have covered diverse advising topics including retention, Motivational Interviewing, and integrating career and academic advising. I have given presentations in both pre-conference and concurrent session formats and received the Best of Region award in 2012 for my Motivational Interviewing presentation.

As an advisor, I enjoy opportunities to generate and introduce creative programming that advances the profession. In my advising unit, I have helped incorporate career advising into the services we provide, allowing us to better help students connect their academic choices to their long-term career goals. I also helped establish the first University of Oregon All-Campus Academic Advising Association (ACAA) and the University of Oregon Excellence in Advising awards program, both of which have increased the visibility of professional advising on campus.

I hope to utilize my programming experience to help university and college advising organizations connect with NACADA. Building such relationships will increase the region's numbers and provide professional development opportunities for campuses that may not have as many opportunities. Furthermore, I hope to foster inter-state relationships by establishing programs that facilitate mentorship and communication between advisors across the state.