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WHERE'S THE LOVE?

This past fall semester was the toughest semester I have ever experienced. I wasn't the only one that felt this way. I spoke with colleagues that have been working for a decade or more who shared my same sentiments. We saw increases in mental health hospitalizations, well-being concerns, and hate or bias incidents. We weren't alone. My colleagues across the country were seeing a similar trend. Faculty and staff were stretched thin working to support students and problem solve complex incidents. [For rest of Blog, click here.](#)



READY. SET. GO. PREPARE YOURSELF TO SERVE OUR STUDENTS

Student affairs professionals, according to James Rhatigan (2009) in the new edition of "The Handbook of Student Affairs Administration, must continually educate themselves, conduct research, and produce scholarship concerning the profession that we hold dear. Addressing new and traditional areas of support, student affairs will continue to contribute to student learning as it is defined by students themselves and by other stakeholders within and beyond the boundaries of higher education (Schuh, J. H., Jones, S. R., & Harper, S. R., 2010). [For rest of Blog, click here.](#)



LET'S BE BETTER AND DO BETTER!

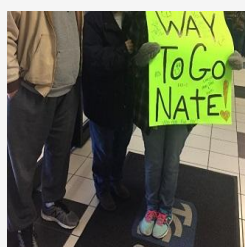
As I reflect on the conversations and focus points of the last few months in my role as a campus based Fraternity/Sorority Life Advisor, the opening lines of the iconic Beastie Boys song "Fight For Your Right" rings all too familiar.... "YOU GOTTA FIGHT FOR YOUR RIGHT TO PAAARRRTTTTY!" matched with the media clips declaring "All Greek activities at XYZ Institution are suspended indefinitely." These opposing views on the future of our fraternal community have us shook as a profession, and even on campuses where "we are not the stereotypical Greek community", the impact can be felt. [For rest of Blog, click here.](#)

meraki (μερακι)

(n.) the soul, love, or creativity put into something; the essence of yourself that you put into your work.

MERAKI AND JOB CRAFTING

Tis the season...the season of resolutions, goals, "words of the year", or whatever your brand of reflection and inspiration might be. Often resolutions are focused on something very personal (weight loss, quitting smoking, etc). Sometimes, though, they also intersect with our professional lives and a desire to craft something meaningful that is both personal and professional. [For rest of Blog, click here.](#)



HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT WORKING AT A COMMUNITY COLLEGE?

"Have you thought about working at a community college?" This question stuck in my mind for months during my post-graduate school job search. I had never thought about working at a community college, my immediate response to him was, "do they really even have student activities there?". I look back on that conversation now and laugh at how naïve I was. I also think of that question on the first day of classes every year when I'm reminded of the great work the local community college does. [For rest of Blog, click here.](#)



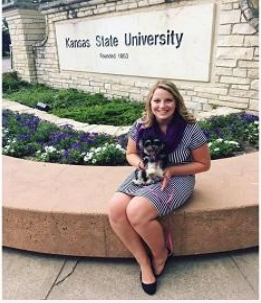
TALKING ABOUT MEN AND MASCULINITY - CONVERSATION WITH CALEB CASH

This month we're highlighting one of the great Men and Masculinities programming work that is going on in the region. I spoke with Caleb Cash, the Assistant Director of Student Engagement at the University of Central Oklahoma. While at UCO, Caleb first began Men's programming, and later worked with students to develop a Men's Programming Board. [For rest of Blog, click here.](#)



JOIN US FOR NASPA IV-W CRITICAL CONVERSATION: FREE SPEECH VS. HATE SPEECH

Join us for the next NASPA IV-W Critical Conversation Wednesday, February 7, 2018, at 11:00 am (CST) focused on how to combat hate on campus and have a conversation around free speech vs. hate speech. [For rest of Blog, click here.](#)



GRADUATE STUDENT SPOTLIGHT - ELISA WILSON

Name: Elisa Wilson Hometown: Colorado Springs, Colorado Graduate Institution: Kansas State University Degree you are working towards: Counseling & Student Development [For rest of Blog, click here.](#)



NEWS FROM YOUR REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Can you believe the national conference is only a month away? For those of you who will be journeying to the 6th largest city in the U.S. for the national conference we are excited for our board meeting, the conference, socials, and just reconnecting with old friends and meeting new friends. [For rest of Blog, click here.](#)



WE NEED YOU! VOLUNTEER TODAY!

Several Knowledge Community (KC) positions are available! The deadline is fast approaching! If you have questions, Veronica Riepe (vriepe2@unl.edu) and Nathan Roberts (nroberts4@missouriwestern.edu) can help and are excited to work with you! Volunteering is a great way to not only serve your campus but the entire region through your work on the advisory board. [For rest of Blog, click here.](#)



NASPA IV-W IMPACT SUMMIT - REGISTRATION OPENS SOON!

Registration opens February 16th, 2018 for the IMPACT Summit! The Conference Planning Committee accepted over thirty educational session proposals on a wide array of topics focused on college student mental health. [For rest of Blog, click here.](#)



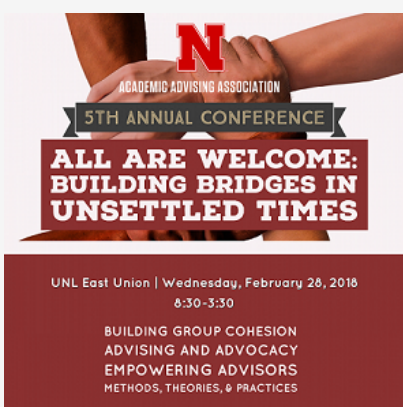
YOUR DONATION IN ACTION

During the 2016 Annual Conference Business meeting; Dr. Lori White accepted the gavel as NASPA Board Chair (<https://www.naspa.org/about/blog/lori-white-accepts-the-gavel-as-naspa-board-chair-2016-17>) and during her inspiring acceptance speech, she listed her five priorities. [For rest of Blog, click here.](#)



MEETING OF THE MINDS 2018

Meeting of the Minds is a regional prevention and health education conference for college and university peer educators, their advisors, administrators, and campus and community law enforcement. Sessions on evidence-based alcohol and drug prevention, violence prevention, and health education will be presented! Meeting of the Minds 2018 will be hosted in Kansas City April 5-7. [For rest of Blog, click here.](#)



5TH ANNUAL ACADEMIC ADVISING ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE: ALL ARE WELCOME: BUILDING BRIDGES IN UNSETTLED

We are writing to you today with an opportunity at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to help develop your academic advisors and student affairs professionals. This year we are hosting our 5th Annual Academic Advising Association Conference: All Are Welcome: Building Bridges in Unsettled Times. [For rest of Blog, click here.](#)

UNL East Union | Wednesday, February 28, 2018
8:30 - 5:30

BUILDING GROUP COHESION
ADVISING AND ADVOCACY
EMPOWERING ADVISORS
METHODS, THEORIES, & PRACTICES