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“CRITICAL CONVERSATIONS” DIVERSITY CONFERENCE

“Critical Conversations” was created to further understand the various issues surrounding race and diversity, provide a venue for “voices” to be heard, and to determine our roles and responsibilities in creating positive social change. We realize that these conversations can be difficult as there are many perspectives, privileges, and needs we all possess. At the same time, the organizers believe that it is imperative to have these conversations (in as many places as possible) to begin the transformational process of individual understanding, growth, and our ability to create change. [For rest of Blog, click here.](#)



IN GRATITUDE FOR IV-WE

In gratitude for IV-WE – our hearts are still in the heart of it all! Hello all! Carla Stein here – your Community College Division Rep. I’m writing this while still in Thanksgiving mode - I offer grateful thanks for our recent FABULOUS conference [For rest of Blog, click here.](#)

GRADUATE STUDENT SPOTLIGHT - MARIE GEIST

Name: Marie Geist Hometown: Lincoln, Nebraska Graduate Institution: University of Kansas
Degree you are working towards: Master’s in Higher Education Administration [For rest of Blog, click here.](#)



CREATING A NEW TYPE OF RELATIONSHIP FOR OUR NEW POST-TRADITIONAL STUDENTS

The identity of today’s college student has changed immensely compared to those from just ten years ago. What we once thought of as the “non-traditional” or “post-traditional” student, one who is beyond 24 years old, married, and working, is now one of the largest growing population in higher education in the United States (Jenkins, 2012). Our once “non-traditional” or “post-traditional” student is now our new traditional student in higher education as there has been a significant increase in students over the age of 25, and a similar expected enrollment trend to continue through 2024 (U.S. DOE, NCES, 2016). [For rest of Blog, click here.](#)



NEWS FROM YOUR REGIONAL DIRECTOR

We hope many of you were able to enjoy the NASPA IV-WE conference in St. Louis. It was a pretty amazing experience combining two large regions and provided a pretty impressive professional gathering. The keynote speakers were phenomenal and the sessions along with the social events done by all the participants from both regions gave the conference a completely different feel and experience. Thank you to all the conference committee members, presenters, board members, and those who attended that made this conference so special for everyone. Everything we do is done by and for our members, we are blessed and thankful. [For rest of Blog, click here.](#)



A "NEWBIE'S" PERSPECTIVE - NASPA IV-WE CONFERENCE

I had the pleasure of attending my first NASPA regional conference in St. Louis, MO. Not only was it my first conference but I had the opportunity to participate in the Mid-Level Institute. From the keynotes, session presentations, to the many new colleagues/friends I met, I cannot wait to continue to professionally grow and get more involved with NASPA IV-West family. [For rest of Blog, click here.](#)



CONGRATS TO OUR FANTASTIC IV-W AWARD WINNERS!

Each year, NASPA recognizes outstanding members and member campuses by honoring them with regional awards. At NASPA IV-West's recent regional conference in St. Louis, 5 campuses were recognized for their exemplary programs and publications and 33 individuals were honored for their outstanding passion, purpose, and dedication to NASPA and the field of Student Affairs. [For rest of Blog, click here.](#)



MIND, BODY AND SPORT

After my last blog discussing three main areas to focus on when working with student-athletes, I wanted to dive a bit deeper and look into meeting the needs of student-athletes' mental health. [For rest of Blog, click here.](#)



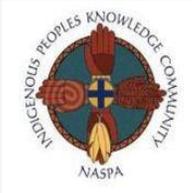
VOLUNTEER TODAY WITH IV-WEST!

For those who attended the NASPA-IV WE conference, I hope you feel as energized as I do! I am excited to get back to work and look for new ways to give back! Here are the current openings on the board. [For rest of Blog, click here.](#)



NASPA IV-WE... THAT'S A WRAP!

The Region IV-WE conference is now in the history books. Four years of planning by teams from across the Midwest led to an engaging and exhilarating gathering of over 740 registrants. We were informed by engaging sessions, inspired by our key note speakers and entertained by hilarious one-liners. In the words of Steve Martin, "Some people just have a way with words, and other people ... oh ... not have way." [For rest of Blog, click here.](#)



KNOWLEDGE COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT – INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

“In the Heart of It All.” As we begin wrapping up the fall semester, I am still thinking about what a groundbreaking Midwest regional conference we experienced this past November. The 2016 Midwest Regional conference marked a new tradition of regions IV-East and IV-West coming together as one large regional conference and celebrate being in the heart of it all. [For rest of Blog, click here.](#)



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