



## Everything you need to know about what's going on in NASPA Region I

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*I loved SALT because it was an amazing opportunity to meet other students and professionals who love Student Affairs as much as I do. The various speakers and workshops validated my decision to pursue Higher Ed and got me excited for my future. The chance to meet professionals in the field gave me a way to consider my areas of interest within the field, and the college fair was a valuable resource for thinking about my postgrad school plans.*

### **Megan Evangelista**

*Suffolk University Graduate Fellow, Office of Student Leadership and Involvement*

*SALT 2011 Conferece Alumnus*

*Undergraduate Degree: Assumption College*

*Graduate Degree: Suffolk University*

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### **Portsha Franklin**

*Graduate Student, Educational Leadership and Policy Students with a concentration in Higher Education Administration, Boston University*

I majored in accounting during my undergraduate studies, received my master's degree in public administration, and worked with the Department of Health and Human Services in the Grants Management division. When I decided to pursue a degree in Educational Leadership & Policy Studies with a concentration in Higher Education Administration, I didn't think that my past experience would make sense for those looking at how I could transition into the field. This couldn't have been further from the truth.

What I learned from the professors who reviewed my application was that applicants to the higher education program ranged from students straight from undergraduate studies, those who have worked in higher education for a number of years, and career changers, like me, who wanted to

impact students in the college setting. Whether your major was English, Business, Engineering, or Art, you have a place in the higher education field. For example, a Bachelor's degree in Chemistry and a Master's degree in Higher Education Administration will give you just the right skills to work in the Admissions Office for the College of Arts & Sciences, where the Chemistry program is housed. You can draw on both degrees to gain a holistic value on how to help prospective and newly accepted students on what programs to apply for or to help clarify their career interests.

In most cases you do not need a prior degree in education to apply for a higher education program. What you do need is a passion for working with students and seeing them flourish from orientation to graduation, good communication skills, and a desire to make positive change in the higher education setting. The realm of student affairs needs more diverse individuals who embody a wide range of races, ethnic groups, cultures, education, and experience who are looking to expand the intellectual framework of student affairs and lead the effort in expanding the conceptual and theoretical base of the field.

We need YOU!

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*Mentorship is so essential to the profession. Given the nature of the field, students need someone in the role to identify their talents and direct them. As someone who did not get my degree in Student Affairs, it was my Grad Assistantships and Undergrad experiences that led me to where I am now.*

**Allison Leventhal**

*Assistant Director for Programs and Resident Support, Brandeis University*

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**#CSAM14 SPOTLIGHT**

Check out [here](#) what **Fairfield University** in Connecticut is doing to promote **Careers in Student Affairs Month** on its campus.

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- Student affairs is fun and every-changing!
- You have opportunities to work with students, faculty & staff within the campus community.

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# CONSIDER A CAREER IN STUDENT AFFAIRS



**ALEX CABAL**  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF  
STUDENT ACTIVITIES  
& LEADERSHIP  
BABSON COLLEGE

UNDERGRADUATE INSTITUTION | GRADUATE INSTITUTION  
UNIVERSITY OF HARTFORD | SPRINGFIELD COLLEGE

## WHY STUDENT AFFAIRS?



I wanted to provide others with the same positive experience that was given to me during my time at the University of Hartford. I felt that being involved on campus gave me opportunities to grow personally and professionally as a student leader. I felt connected to Student Affairs and I wanted to keep learning about student development and service.



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APPLY TO  
SALT  
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DUE OCT. 10

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### SALT Conference Alumnus Reflection

*Jeremy Weinberg, Resident Director, Boston College*

SALT Conference: 2011

Undergraduate Institution: Brandeis University

Graduate Institution: Northeastern University

As an introvert, I was very nervous about SALT because I only knew one or two people going and had no idea what to expect from the experience. However, once I got there I realized that it wouldn't be as traumatizing as I once thought! There were plenty of one-on-one conversation opportunities, interesting Student Affairs professionals presenting, and it challenged me to get out of my comfort zone at various points. I particularly remember learning about how to create a brand for myself and the impact of social media on my personal brand. I also remember "round robin" style discussions with many different professionals on their varied paths into the profession. It helped me start to think about what I wanted my path to be, and gave me the confidence to start networking naturally through conversations. I also keep running into other SALT 2011 attendees, whether through my grad program, conferences, and my current institution which is pretty awesome.

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- Working with interns! You get to develop undergrad and graduate student interns!

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# Top 10 things to do in order to be successful in a Student Affairs Master's program

By Michael Cichowicz & Hakim Hill, Graduate Students, University of Bridgeport



## Buy an APA manual

This will help you write papers in your classes with the correct formatting and citations.



## Research and start networking for your internship/practicum

It's good to have an idea of where you'd like to work. Gain skills in different areas to help you stand out. This is also a valuable opportunity to find out where you would not like to work. Gaining as much student interaction as possible will help further your career.



## Become acquainted with your classmates, professors, and program advisor

Networking starts within the classroom. The peers in your class now will be one of your lifelines as you navigate and progress through your career.



## Keep an open dialogue with undergraduates and keep up with current trends in student affairs

Use this as an opportunity to not put distance between yourself and the students during your academic pursuits.



## Join a professional organization and try to attend regional conferences

This is a great way to meet other professionals in the field that can lead to job opportunities and/or job promotion.



## Save all of your books and notes from your classes

You never know when you may need to refer back to these.



## Introduce yourself to research methods and start thinking about what area you'd want to apply it for your thesis

This will help you when preparing for your thesis as well as doing assessments in whichever department you work in.



## Familiarize yourself with different departments, how they work, and where you'd see yourself working upon graduation

Gaining as much experience and skills in the field is priceless. You never know when you may find an opportunity in departments other than the one you originally began working for.



## Take initiatives within your institution geared towards undergraduates and graduates alike

Start groups, volunteer, shadow, and develop helping relationships geared towards the undergraduate population.



## Make a name for yourself

Make sure your resume and cover letters are polished and follow steps 1-9.

Here's a fun take on how to be successful in **Student Affairs** by Michael Cichowicz and Hakim Hill, Graduate Students, University of Bridgeport

\*Click on the photo to enlarge it

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*Keep an open mind (on your graduate school search)! Sometimes you'll have your heart set on a place when another really great place is in front of your face! Also, don't limit yourself geographically unless you need to. It's 2 years somewhere - very temporary!*

## CONSIDER A CAREER IN STUDENT AFFAIRS



# BETH MORIARTY

DIRECTOR OF RESIDENCE LIFE  
AND HOUSING  
BRIDGEWATER STATE  
UNIVERSITY

UNDERGRADUATE INSTITUTION

UMASS AMHERST

GRADUATE INSTITUTION

UNIV. OF RHODE ISLAND

DOCTORAL PROGRAM

JOHNSON & WALES UNIVERSITY

### WHY STUDENT AFFAIRS?

“ Like many others, I started my undergraduate career not knowing that "Student Affairs" existed as a career. I was involved on campus and I particularly enjoyed my RA position. I was a psychology major and not sure what I would do after graduation. I had a great opportunity my senior year to intern in the Residential Education office at UMass. I attended and presented at my first BACHA RA conference and I attended and volunteered at ACPA/NASPA (it was a joint conference year). After that I realized that this was what I wanted to do so I applied to graduate school and started my student affairs journey.

I was a first generation college student. Without the help of many during my undergraduate career, I would not have graduated. I enjoy working with first gen students and I think that is one of the biggest reasons I continue in the field, to pay it forward.



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DUE OCT. 31

*I recommend the SALT conference to those that are interested because it is a great opportunity to not only learn more about the profession from seasoned professionals, but you get a chance to network with others that are just as interested and eager to learn as you are.*

**Jeffrey Sawyer**

*Residence Director, Southern Vermont College*

*SALT 2010 Conference Alumnus*

*Undergraduate and Graduate degrees: University of Massachusetts Lowell*

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**SALT Conference Alumnus Reflection**

*Lizette I. Zajko, Assistant Director of Student Activities, Involvement & Leadership, Wheaton College*

SALT Conference: 2012

Undergraduate Institution – Anna Maria College

Graduate Institution – University of Rhode Island

As a legal studies major at Anna Maria College, I wanted to prepare myself for a career in law by building my resume and leadership skills. I did this by being heavily involved in student activities and in various departments on campus for my four years at the institution. Little did I know, I was actually setting myself up for a career in student affairs. Shout out to Brian Quinlan, my mentor and past supervisor, who jokingly said one day, “You know... you can do this as a job? This could be your career.” After that conversation, I was at a crossroads. It was my senior year of college, I had already taken the LSAT, and I was in the throes of applying to law school. Then Brian suggested that I apply to the Student Affairs Leaders of Tomorrow conference offered through NAPSA Region 1. I thought I’d give it a shot and I’m sure glad I did!

During the 2012 SALT conference, I connected with various budding Student Affairs professionals in the region and spoke to them about their experiences as an undergraduate student at their respective institutions. I learned a lot from my peers and came to the realization that Student Affairs was much vaster than a Campus Activities Board and Student Government Association. SALT offered various sessions in social media presence, what it means to be a graduate student or professional in student affairs, and offered us an opportunity to connect with various professionals in the field through small group dialogues.

I would recommend this conference to any individual considering a career in student affairs. The graduate school fair during SALT is a great way to connect with local colleges and universities who offer different tracks of Student Affairs programs. I learned most from stopping at each table to see what schools had to offer. There are many types of programs and graduate assistantship packages and having face-to-face dialogue with program directors is an amazing opportunity that cannot be had from a Google search.

If you are interested in Student Affairs, do not hesitate to start getting your name out in the field early. Student Affairs practitioners are a part of a small community and an especially strong community in this region. Setting up informational interviews is a great way to gain insight on various functional areas in student affairs. Each school has their own flare and getting to know as many institutions as possible is a great way to get your feet wet in deciding what area you are looking to go into.

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Since #CSAM14 has 31 days. we asked colleagues around the region to tell us “31 Reasons to Go into Student Affairs”

- Students. We go to work because of all our students!
- Student interaction. There’s always admin work, but we work directly with students!

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*Student Affairs is home. Not just for me but for many quirky, door tag loving, and hall council attending residents who was passionate but didn't know what to name it. It motivates me to create change. And for this I am forever grateful.*

**John Hernandez**

*Resident Director, University of Hartford*

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