



**2015 NASPA Conference Committee Report**  
**Richard Walker, Conference Chair**  
**July 2014**

The 2015 NASPA Conference Leadership Committee began its work with a face-to face planning meeting October 28-30, 2013 in New Orleans, Louisiana the site of the 2015 conference. The planning meeting was attended by the Conference Leadership Committee, Pat Whitely (Board Chair), Kevin Kruger (President), and NASPA staff members Stephanie Gordon, Arlene Kidwell, and Jennifer Vaseleck. During the planning time in New Orleans the team had the opportunity to tour the host hotel, the Hilton New Orleans Riverside, and the New Orleans Convention Center.

The membership of the 2015 Conference Leadership Committee reflects all NASPA regions, public and private institutions, the community college and the faculty council. A terrific team of higher education practitioners has been assembled to lead the conference planning efforts. (List of 2015 NASPA Conference Leadership Team is attached.)

The theme for the conference is **Navigating with Courage** which reflects the spirit of the people of our host city, as well as the rapid and fundamental changes facing student affairs practitioners. With the proliferation of new technologies, the current regulatory and compliance environment, the continued focus on “big data” and evidenced-based practices, student affairs educators must be able to navigate these changes with courage to remain relevant and results oriented. With this in mind, the 2015 Conference Leadership Committee is seeking fresh and creative program proposals in the following focus areas:

- Future of Higher Education
- Student Success and Persistence
- Resiliency and Authenticity
- Public Policy, Access, and Compliance
- Career/Employability
- Technology and Student Affairs
- Affordability in Higher Education
- Outcomes Based Funding

The Call for Programs launched on June 1, 2014 and the deadline for submission is September 5, 2014. The Call for Program reviews will be conducted August 8-September 5, 2014 with the proposal review process runs September 8-October 6. The Conference Leadership Committee

will meet in Washington, DC October 7-9, 2014 to make the final program selections and submission status notifications will be sent via e-mail on October 24, 2014.

The Conference Leadership Committee met face-to-face on March 16 and March 19 at the 2014 conference in Baltimore, Maryland. The committee staffed the 2015 Conference Information table along with a representative of the New Orleans Convention and Visitors bureau throughout the 2014 conference.

The Conference Leadership Committee has reviewed the results of the 2014 conference evaluations and is building off of the excellent work of last year's committee enhancing and expanding the various new program formats and is organized in the following areas of focus or sub-committees: Local Arrangements, Chief Student Affairs Officers, SA Speaks and Members' Choice, Innovation Lab (to be renamed), Scholarly Paper/Faculty Sessions, NASPA Book Club, and Featured Speakers. Members of the Conference Leadership Committee have been assigned an area of focus or sub-committee to oversee and/or provide assistance and input to the NASPA staff regarding the planning efforts. Each of the sub-committees consists of NASPA volunteers representing all areas of the membership. The utilization of the focus area/sub-committee format has allowed for an expanded opportunity for NASPA members to participate and assist in the conference planning efforts. The focus areas/sub-committees are conducting business via regular conference calls. The local arrangements sub-committee will meet face-to-face in New Orleans on July 26, 2014.

Of note, the array of featured speakers being pursued is outstanding and reflects the overall theme and focus areas for the conference. With the revitalization of the NASPA Book Club the committee hopes to have an author(s) participate in featured educational sessions. The book club also plans to highlight a local New Orleans author.

The Conference Leadership Committee along with the NASPA staff is hard at work planning an exciting 2015 annual conference in the culturally rich city of New Orleans, LA for March 21-25, 2015.