



**Frank E. Ross, Conference Chair**  
**Report for the July 2015 Board of Directors Meeting**  
**July 2015**

The 2016 NASPA Annual Conference Leadership Committee began its work with an initial planning meeting in October in Indianapolis. The planning meeting was attended by members of the Conference Leadership Committee, including Frank Lamas and Kevin Kruger, and NASPA staff members Stephanie Gordon, Arlene Kidwell, and Jennifer Vaseleck. During the planning time in Indianapolis the team had the opportunity to tour the Indianapolis Convention Center, host hotels, including the main conference hotel, the JW Marriott, and other possible event/ hospitality locations in downtown Indianapolis.

The Conference Leadership Committee met during the 2015 NASPA Annual Conference, where they also staffed the 2016 Conference Information table along with a representative of the Indianapolis Convention and Visitors Bureau. Additional work has been accomplished through regular committee conference calls.

The membership of the 2016 Conference Leadership Committee reflects the broad diversity of NASPA. Members represent all NASPA regions, public and private institutions, and community colleges, as well as all professional levels, including new professionals, mid-level professionals, senior student affairs officers, and faculty.

The theme for the 2016 NASPA Annual Conference is **Common Purpose: Shaping a Vision for Higher Education**. Higher education has a common purpose - to prepare students to be actively engaged citizens who have the knowledge, skills, and competencies to learn and lead in a global society. At the same time, post-secondary education is facing increased pressure and scrutiny in many ways. We are experiencing higher levels of accountability to ensure students' career readiness and employability. Changing demographics requires us to better understand and provide excellent service to an increasingly diverse student population. Strong leadership during this transformational time in higher education is critical, and calls for strong partnerships to support students and their success.

The 2016 NASPA Conference Leadership Committee seeks program proposals that inspire innovation and partnership. Complementing the 2015 – 2018 NASPA Strategic Plan, session proposals should focus on the following topics:

**Inspiring the leaders of higher education and evolving the student affairs profession.**

- How can we expand our understanding of what we know to be successful beyond the classroom?
- How will the changing demographics challenge our traditional notions of student engagement?
- How do graduate preparation programs continue to evolve and innovate to respond to changes on campus?
- In what ways can student affairs demonstrate the impact of co-curricular learning relating to student success and employability?

**Generating knowledge and data that informs equitable and inclusive student affairs practices.**

- How do we provide value and meaningful experiences for post-traditional students?
- How do we create the conditions for increasingly diverse populations to thrive?
- What knowledge, skills and attitudes are necessary to create optimal learning environments that are rich with diversity?

**Influencing policy that has an impact on the future of higher education and advocating for students in all areas of the learning enterprise.**

- How does prior learning assessment change the college experience?
- How can student affairs administrators provide leadership for critical issues related to campus safety and security, crisis management, and gender-based violence prevention?
- How can we better prepare ourselves to advocate for our students on a local, state, national and global level?

**Integrating technologies that shape how we deliver services, manage crises, and change the learning environment.**

- How do we support the well-being of online and distance learners?
- In what ways do we leverage technology to support collaboration and advance integrative learning?
- How can student affairs administrators and faculty members use hybrid classrooms to engage diverse learners?

**Connecting with partners to prepare students, faculty, and professionals for the realities of a global society.**

- What research is emerging that prepares us to better support and advance global student development?
- How can student affairs administrators better understand and support international students, as well as improve strategies to ensure success for U.S. students studying abroad?
- How can institutions more effectively engage international students to create more vibrant diverse learning environments?

Conference registration opened April 1, 2015. The Call for Programs opened June 3, 2015 and deadline for program proposal submission is September 4, 2015. The Conference Leadership Committee will meet in Washington, DC in October to make the final program selections.

The Conference Leadership Committee, with great support from the NASPA staff, is working hard to plan an educationally rich conference in beautiful, vibrant downtown Indianapolis! The 2016 Placement Exchange begins March 9, 2016 and the 2016 NASPA Annual Conference will occur March 12 – 16.