



Brian McCoy, Chair
NASPA 2013 Conference Report
November 7, 2012

NASPA Board Action Items

- None at this time

NASPA Mission

To be the principal source for leadership, scholarship, professional development, and advocacy for students.

Leadership

- *See below under Professional Development*

Scholarship

- *See below under Professional Development*

Professional Development



With 20 months of creative thinking and energetic planning behind us, the NASPA 2013 Conference Planning Committee has well-positioned the NASPA leadership to deliver an engaging and dynamic professional development experience in March 2013 in Orlando. The Featured Speakers Committee has amassed a diverse array of major speakers who will challenge Conference attendees to think beyond the

traditional boundaries that drive our work and consider innovative approaches to student learning and our own professional development. While all our Featured Speakers information is available on the Conference website, Conference participants can expect a unique and special kickoff with our opening speaker, Dustin Lance Black, who will be followed by Victor Pineda, Diane Dean and Art Levine, Bryan Alexander, and conclude with Sekou.

A special Featured Speakers event will be the panel of educators who will join us in celebrating the 50th anniversary of Martin Luther King Jr.'s historic March on Washington and the delivery of his "I Have a Dream" speech. This group will discuss the advancements we have seen since this monumental speech, as well as the challenges that remain that impact the work we do.

Record numbers of program proposals were submitted for both pre-conference (59) and traditional educational (960) sessions. In an effort to meet NASPA's strategic goal of building the capacity to create knowledge and use data to provide evidence that will support excellence in practice, the Programs and Pre-conference Programs Sub-committees accepted 40 pre-conference and 425 educational sessions programs that will inform our practice, advance our profession, and support our efforts of promoting student success and learning. A listing of all selected pre-conference programs is available on the Conference website, and we expect to have the educational sessions listing available shortly. Of special note is the full-day pre-conference session on legal issues presented by Peter Lake, and the half-day symposium sponsored by the James E. Scott Academy and the Spelman & Johnson Group that is designed to facilitate a discussion among senior student affairs officers on enhancing the relevance of student affairs within higher education.

Additional new and different Conference features to be anticipated include Random Spaces of Coolness (open spaces throughout the Conference Center where individuals will experience unique information-sharing, networking, and entertainment activities); the Social Media Hub (providing learning opportunities for those new to social media as well as a central gathering space for those looking for technological interaction); facility-wide wireless technology access including in guest rooms; "Dueling the Night Away", a unique entertainment experience replacing the NASPA Talent Show; and our on-site community service activity in support of Clean the World.

Similar to Conference registrations to date, sponsorships are running ahead of last year, with over 90 booths sold and 20 more remaining to be sold. Sodexo has agreed to be our major Conference sponsor, Chartwells will sponsor the Opening Reception entertainment and the SSAO Reception, EBI will sponsor the SSAO Lounge, and Aramark will sponsor the Leadership Dinner.

Although it was expected that the entire conference experience, educational sessions, networking opportunities, and hotel accommodations would take place on one property, the Conference Planning Committee and NASPA staff anticipated that our conference attendance numbers would necessitate us having another lodging option. Therefore, the Caribe Royale, just minutes from the Marriott World Center, has been added for hotel accommodations and possible ancillary events. This is proving to be a wise decision as our attendance numbers, to date, are already running ahead of previous years.

The 2013 Conference Planning Committee looks forward to gathering with our colleagues from around the world to demonstrate that we can be **Bold Without Boundaries** in supporting NASPA's guiding principles and reflects the Committee's efforts at encouraging NASPA members to be unafraid to take our work to the next level by engaging in unrelenting efforts that will help to strengthen the higher education landscape and to advocate for more research and scholarship that adds to the knowledge base of our profession to ensure its future.

Advocacy

- *See above under Professional Development*