



Brian McCoy, Conference Chair
2013 NASPA Conference Chair Report
July 2012

The 2013 NASPA Conference Planning Committee began its work shortly after Levester Johnson was elected Chair of the Board in 2011. LJ selected Brian McCoy as Conference Chair, and, together, they formed a team of outstanding and energetic student affairs professionals who, along with NASPA staff, have already done a great deal of work in planning for the 2013 NASPA Conference at the Marriott World Center in Orlando, Florida.

The conference theme of **Bold Without Boundaries** supports 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. We need to constantly think of ways in which we can change the work we do and be innovative in our approaches to student learning and professional development. And, finally, the Committee wishes to inspire our members to boldly embrace the need for further assessment and evaluation of what we do so we have a body of evidence that informs our decisions and demonstrates the excellence of our practice.

The Conference Planning Committee has been conducting its planning in both face-to-face meetings and conference calls since July 2011. The Committee met in October 2011 and June 2012 in Orlando to examine the conference facility and determine how we can best deliver an innovative and dynamic professional development experience for NASPA members while, at the same time, take advantage of our location in Central Florida to allow conference attendees to take care of themselves professionally and personally. Monthly conference calls allow the Committee to exchange information, coordinate efforts, and stay on task with our planning.

The entire conference experience, educational sessions, networking opportunities, and hotel accommodations will take place on one property. While this may present some challenges given our anticipated conference attendance, the Conference Planning Committee is optimistic that the Marriott World Center has amazing space to accommodate most, if not all, NASPA's needs. Gathering spaces for more professional and social interactions will be available. The Featured Speakers Subcommittee has secured Dustin Lance Black as our opening speaker and is in negotiations with a handful of other outstanding and engaging individuals for the remainder of the conference. The Call for Programs has been sent to NASPA members and others in the higher education arena in an effort to encourage a diverse array of submissions representing **Bold** initiatives and practices in our profession. In response to the Committee's insistence, NASPA staff have negotiated for robust wireless technology to accommodate the technical needs of our high touch membership throughout the entire conference and hotel facility. And, in reviewing evaluations from the 2012 Conference, the Committee is responding to

member feedback by planning unique and diverse opportunities for social engagement, personal, and professional development.

ACTION ITEM FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS CONSIDERATION

Along with the outstanding guidance from the NASPA staff, the Conference Planning Committee has constructed a conference budget that we believe conservatively reflects the revenue and expenses for the 2013 NASPA Annual Conference. This budget is submitted to the NASPA Board of Directors for approval.

The following lists members of the 2013 NASPA Annual Conference Planning Committee:

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