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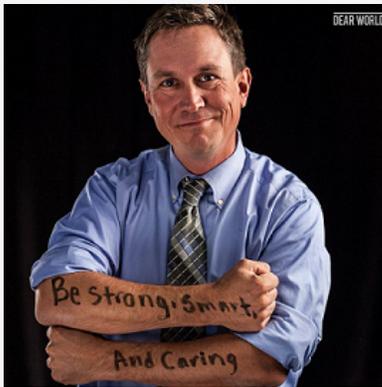
The leading voice for the student affairs profession worldwide.

NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY
DIVERSITY CONFERENCE



BE PROUD OF YOUR STORY

On behalf of the Critical Conversations Diversity Committee and North Dakota State University, we want to encourage you to attend the conference in Fargo on April 10-12, 2017. Come and hear the stories of our incredible speakers while having ample opportunity to share your own. We've designed the conference to be low cost with high impact. To continue to encourage everyone to come and share their stories, I wanted to share my story that I once wrote for a class. The style of the poem is structured using, "I am" statements. Though the "I am poem" structure does not have to rhyme, that is how I chose to structure mine. If you want to write your own, "I am poem" and share the story of your life, we would love to share it at the Critical Conversations Diversity Conference in April 10-12. [For rest of Blog, click here.](#)



NASPA PAST REGIONAL DIRECTOR: OUTGOING RD REFLECTION

Howdy Region IV-West! It has been a wonderful ride to work with and learn from all of you over the past few years. A few comments as I complete my role as the Past Regional Director. [For rest of Blog, click here.](#)



SHE LOOKS LIKE YOU

When this picture was taken, I was 38 weeks pregnant. Two weeks later, my baby girl was born and my life has changed for the better. From my previous MRKC spotlights, you might remember that I am transracially adopted into a white family. Even though I looked different than my family, my parents always made sure I did not feel alone by getting me the tan Barbie, the tan doll, and even incorporating my skin color into songs. My dad changed lyrics from "Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world, black and yellow, red and white" to "all the children of the world, red, yellow, brown, black and white," and he would always smile at me knowingly when he said the word "brown." [For rest of Blog, click here.](#)



NEWS FROM YOUR REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Can you believe it is March already? The national NASPA conference is only a week away in San Antonio. I hope to see many of you there for the premier professional development experience NASPA has to offer. Plus it doesn't hurt to have your professional family all together in San Antonio. We look forward to seeing you at the various events, but especially the regional reception and the regional business meeting, both on Monday, March 13. Please stop by and say hi and let us know if we can do anything for your professional journey. [For rest of Blog, click here.](#)

North Dakota State University

POVERTY SIMULATION

CRITICAL CONVERSATION PRE-CON: POVERTY SIMULATION

What is it like to live in poverty? This is the question the 2016 ACUI award winning program tries to answer. As the Critical Conversation Conference grows near, our conference committee wanted to highlight this opportunity for students, faculty and staff to participate in the very impactful and educational program. The objective of this simulation to sensitize participants to day to day realities of life faced by people of low incomes and motivate participants to become involved in activities which help to reduce poverty in this country. [For rest of Blog, click here.](#)



NASPA IV-W GRADUATE STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Name: Danielle Linderman Hometown: Republic, Missouri Graduate Institution: Missouri State University Degree you are working towards: Student Affairs in Higher Education Undergraduate Institution: Drury University [For rest of Blog, click here.](#)

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SENIOR-YEAR TRANSITION

The discrepancy between those preparing students and those hiring graduates has created problematic issues. Employers are searching for students with an array of leadership skills in addition to their degree. As a result of their search, employers have noticed important skillsets that college graduates are lacking. If this problem is not addressed, the dissatisfaction from employers may significantly grow and potentially create a greater divide between industry and institution. As a result, college students may begin questioning their financial investment in their college experience, and the purpose of America College's may be mocked. So how much attention should faculty, staff, and administrators on college campuses invest in the senior-year transition? [For rest of Blog, click here.](#)



VOLUNTEER WITH NASPA IV-W TODAY!

NASPA IV- West friends, Spring is in the air!!! Look for ways to professionally grow and represent your institution by volunteering your time and talent to the region! There are great opportunities listed below. [For rest of Blog, click here.](#)



KNOWLEDGE COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT - FRATERNITY AND SORORITY

The Fraternity and Sorority Knowledge Community (FSKC) provides a forum for organizations and professionals working with fraternities and sororities for the exchange of ideas, knowledge dissemination and collaboration among the fraternal movement. The individuals within our KC are committed to seeing fraternities and sororities provide a "value-added" experience to our students at our host institutions, and can mark our claim to fame as one of the largest KC's in NASPA with nearly 1,400 members and growing. [For rest of Blog, click here.](#)





NASPA FOUNDATION UPDATES

We are a little over one month away from the 2017 NASPA Annual Conference in San Antonio! The NASPA Foundation has released a new opportunity for Knowledge Communities to engage with the NASPA membership to fund endeavors through individual donations. This program is the NASPA Foundation Special Interest Fund. Currently, as an individual member, you can specifically designate your funds to go to support the work of the Latino/a Knowledge Community or the Gender and Sexuality Knowledge Community. This is a brand new initiative and in time, other KC's will follow suit. [For rest of Blog, click here.](#)

UPDATES FROM PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS DIVISION



Small Colleges & Universities Advisory Group is looking for a couple of new faces! The Region IV-W SCU advisory group is seeking new members representing the states of Missouri and Kansas. This group assists the IV-W SCU liaison in advocating for issues related to Small Colleges and University, cultivate professional development programs for SCU membership at region conferences and events, and provide feedback to the IV-W Board and SCU Liaison to be communicated at the national level. The group will meet via conference call on a quarterly basis with additional calls to plan region activities as needed. Anyone interested in becoming more involved in Region IV-W, who works at an SCU is eligible. Please contact carrie.petr@doane.edu of more information. [For rest of Blog, click here.](#)



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