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## FACING FEAR AND FINDING COURAGE: THE STORY OF ARIGUN

In preparation for this month's Asian-Pacific Islander (API) month's blog, I conducted a review of the trending articles related to APIs. I found several articles featuring the ongoing struggles of Asian-Pacific Islanders in the workplace, specifically related to not being promoted at the same rate as others or not being paid equal to others. Still other articles focused on microaggressions towards APIs in the workplace and how to respond in a professional manner. Obviously, a review of the literature can be overwhelming and even negative at times due to what the media chooses to cover or simply because information needs to be shared as to the needs and concerns of API's. For this month's blog, I chose instead to feature a, "feel good" story of a young college woman who traversed half the globe with only a suitcase and a dream to discover herself. [For rest of Blog, click here.](#)



## NDSU CRITICAL CONVERSATIONS... ROAD TRIP!!!

I had the great privilege of traveling with a colleague and 10 students from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to Fargo, ND to attend the Critical Conversations Diversity conference. By serving on the IV-West Advisory Board, I was familiar with the conference and was excited to attend, but the opportunity to take so many students from our campus was what I was really looking forward to experiencing. The journey was improved because the students did not know each other. [For rest of Blog, click here.](#)



## MOTIVATION IN STUDENT AFFAIRS

Motivation is a fickle feeling! Sometimes, working in higher education, it is really easy to get motivated.....yet other times, it become very hard. I would venture to say that very few of us expected to work in student affairs when we started as a student in college. I bet the majority of us didn't even know what student affairs was when we first stepped foot on campus. Nonetheless, if you are reading this message, you are most likely working in higher education in some capacity.....loving it some days, and dreading it others. [For rest of Blog, click here.](#)



## NEWS FROM YOUR NASPA IV-W REGIONAL DIRECTOR

As I furiously write my comments to Region IV-West I am reminded by the blessings we have in our job. My nights and weekends have been filled with me whining about numerous banquets, receptions, ceremonies, and concerts. But the truth is, I am grateful I get to attend so many great events. Rejoicing in our community, celebrating great effort and success, and awarding those who give selflessly over and over each and every day. I GET TO DO all of this! [For rest of Blog, click here.](#)



## GRADUATE STUDENT SPOTLIGHT - JILL WULFENSTEIN

Name: Jill Wulfenstein Hometown: Pahrump, NV Graduate Institution: University of Central Arkansas Degree you are working towards: MS in College Student Personnel Services Undergraduate Institution: Dixie State University Previous Institutions: I've worked at and attended Utah Valley University, Southern Virginia University and University of New England [For rest of Blog, click here.](#)



## TEAM UP, WHO IS YOUR PARTNER?

Chose yours. Selecting just the right partner for the situation may be easier than you think. Parents as Partners on Campus? There are numerous occasions for parents and families who hover over their student(s) or "helicopter parent" from afar. Parents and families are often regarded adversely for organizing interference or initiating another obstacle for the student to overcome towards achieving independent success. However, relatives and families are one of your strongest resources ensuring the student's victory walking across the stage at commencement. [For rest of Blog, click here.](#)



## WE NEED OUR NASPA IV-WEST FAMILY!

Are you looking for ways to get involved? As we prepare for our regional conference this November consider being a program or award reviewer! Click on the link below to complete the application! <https://www.naspa.org/about/get-involved/volunteer> [For rest of Blog, click here.](#)



## KC SPOTLIGHT - INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

In his classic novel, *The Innocents Abroad*, Mark Twain (1990) surmises that "Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness, and many of our people need it sorely on these accounts. Broad, wholesale, charitable views of men and things cannot be acquired by vegetating in one little corner of the earth all one's lifetime" (p. 424). While international travel and experiencing cultures and customs first-hand is transformational, many in our nation (and largely land-locked region) find global mobility out of their reach. According to the Institute for International Education annual Open Doors report, 313,415 US students participated in study abroad programs in 2014-2015, a 2.9% increase from the previous year (Farrugia & Bhandari, 2015). Though it is heartening to see this number increasing, this accounts for 1.6% of US undergraduate students. [For rest of Blog, click here.](#)



## PUBLIC POLICY RESOURCES

Check out the some great information and work that is being done in the area of public policy. [For rest of Blog, click here.](#)

## THE IMPORTANCE OF JOINING THE CONVERSATION

With a new Presidential administration, higher education is again in a time of change and transition. Although the Trump administration has not shared much around their agenda for post-secondary education, we know Congress is expected to take up the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act which means change looms on the horizon. While it may be too early to address the current moving targets of educational policy under a Trump administration, it's an ideal time for student affairs professionals to become active participants in local, state, and federal policy conversations. [For rest of Blog, click here.](#)



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