



Greetings!

As I watched the University of Connecticut students move into the residence halls recently, my first thought always is, “All that stuff is not going to fit into your room.” After that initial chuckle, I like to watch the families. If you watch closely enough, the inevitable look of fear and uncertainty will surface on both students and families, even if it is a fleeting moment. The common bond they all have is actually this uncertainty. The student who three months earlier couldn’t get to school without someone yelling at them to get up is wondering if they will make friends and if they can handle the academics. The older student who is embarking on a new phase of their life is afraid they will not be able to measure up academically and wonder if they will find support and a welcoming environment. Family members send their student off hoping that they have the tools to be successful and that the college they are going to will keep their student safe. For us, it is another year of challenging and supporting our students as they navigate the higher education world. Know that work is important to all of these people and it is important to ASCA. We appreciate you and all that you give to your communities.

I want to share with you some updates from ASCA to keep you informed as we continue to move through 2018. I hope you find them helpful.

This past February, the 2019 ASCA Board of Directors developed our strategic priorities for the year. In my remarks at the 2018 Annual Conference and subsequent letter to the membership, I stated;

As we convened as a board this week, we spent the majority of our time discussing the member experience and which of our practices are inclusive and where we have missed the mark. We have held various listening sessions where we have heard loud and clear that we have members who do not feel it is easy to be involved and that we are not as inclusive as we need to be. As we reflected on our mission, values, and goals, it became very clear to us that our over-arching strategic priority was to infuse inclusive practice into all aspects of the association and its work. The time is now for us to examine our environment, processes, and experiences in their totality so that we are fully living our values of diversity and inclusion, advocacy, community, education, integrity and leadership.

That commitment has not wavered and we have both progressed and stumbled. We must own and learn from each of these experiences if we truly wish to evolve as an association. I have been learning about trauma stewardship recently as I am extremely concerned about the impact our work has on ourselves and those around us. In Laura van Dernoot Lipsky’s new book, “The Age of Overwhelm” (2018), she discusses factors that contribute to the sense of “overwhelm.” She challenges us to ask ourselves:

- How am I contributing to and how am I reacting to this condition?
- Do I understand the toll of this condition on myself and others?
- And am I exacerbating the toll, helping to mitigate it, or transforming it?

Regardless of our role in ASCA, we all need to be asking ourselves the above on a regular basis and then doing something about it. This is an association of tremendous talent that we need to tap into. It is also a place where we hope our members can find the support network that fits them. To achieve this we need to be constantly reflecting on our work.

Below is information to update you on some on-going activities as well as progress on some of our 2018 Strategic Priorities of ASCA. To provide input, you may contact any

member of the Board of Directors <https://www.theasca.org/bod>.

1. Develop an on-boarding experience for the volunteer leaders (Regions, States, CoPs, Committees)

- This is currently being developed by the Central Office.

2. Develop a “Welcome to ASCA” video.

- This is currently being developed by the Central Office.

3. Strategic Priority: Featured speakers, Gehring faculty, institute facilitators, and presenters must be selected by being intentionally inclusive and be reflective of our membership.

- One of the first implemented expectations of the 2019 ASCA Board was to open our experiences to all of our members. This included implementing applications for the Gehring Academy, the Sexual Misconduct Institute, and adding to the current applications connected to the Annual Conference. By soliciting applications and nominations is a step in inclusive practice. Moving forward, we will be examining our application questions to ensure that we are not asking questions that build on oppressive systems. We also recognize that applications need to be available early to allow for active promotion of the process as well as appropriate vetting of the applications, and then the incorporation of appropriate training of those positions. We also know that academic calendars are different for everyone and have taken into consideration to the best we can that we have members on semesters, quarters, and various other iterations. We have tried to give sufficient time for these periods so you can plan accordingly.

Related to this, it can be discouraging if one is not picked. As a long-time member of ASCA, as well as other associations, I personally know the frustration of expressing interest and not being selected. I ask that you persist in those attempts and also, please do not hesitate to ask for feedback which can be a difficult action to take but a great way to learn more about how applications are viewed.

4. Strategic Priority: Examine and develop a recruitment plan with an emphasis on institutional members and a broader cross-section of those who have student conduct responsibilities related to HR, disabilities, threat assessment, etc.

- We know that educational opportunities through ASCA are often the door where potential members first enter. ASCA offers events on a national, regional, and local level. Some highlighted events are:
 1. The ASCA Donald D. Gehring Academy for Student Conduct Administration was recently held in Indianapolis, Indiana. There were 290 participants engaging in one or more of the following tracks: Mary Beth Mackin Foundations of Professional Practice, Student Conduct Directors and Aspiring Directors, Advance Sexual Misconduct Institute, First Amendment, Organizational Misconduct, and Restorative Justice.
 2. Sexual Misconduct Institutes in Portland, Oregon and Lowell, Massachusetts have occurred and the third institute will be held in Swathmore, Pennsylvania. More information can be found at <http://ascatileix.com/institute-info/>.
 3. The 2019 ASCA Annual Conference will be held in Jacksonville, Florida from February 6 to 9, 2019. More information can be found at <http://ascaconference.com>.
 4. We continue to offer webinars throughout the year.
 5. We also encourage you to check out what is happening at your local level and as many great events are happening to help you learn and connect with those closest to you.
- To provide input on developing a recruitment plan as described above, please contact [Kateeka Harris](#), [Brian Glick](#), or [Erin Logan](#).

5. Strategic Priority: Examine the current Board structure and volunteer leader structure and make appropriate recommendations for moving forward.

- There is a task force specifically looking at the state and region structure. To provide suggestions or feedback, contact Christina Parle.
- We will also be looking at our current board structure to make recommendations moving forward. To provide suggestions or feedback, contact Seann Kalagher.
- We are also looking at our volunteer leadership experience on the whole. Contact Jill Creighton to provide input.

6. Identify association partners to collaborate as a means to demonstrate the expertise of

ASCA.

- We are continuing to look at opportunities to collaborate.
- This month, we were excited to announce the release of our joint ASCA and ACUHO-I publication, **Conduct and Community: A Residence Life Practitioner's Guide** which has been in the works for the past year. This publication looks at the key relationship between student conduct and building communities in our residence halls. Thanks to all of the contributors to the important work with a special thanks to editors and ASCA members Alan Acosta, Ryan Holmes, and JoCynda Hudson for their commitment to this project. The book can be purchased at https://www.theasca.org/store_product.asp?prodid=90.
- Also from last year, it was reported at the 2018 Annual Conference that ASCA & FEA are excited to share our collaborative publication, **Communication and Collaboration Guidance for Inter/National Fraternal Organizations and Campus Student Conduct Professionals**, available on the ASCA website at https://www.theasca.org/files/FEA_ASCA%20Resource%202018.pdf.

7. Recruit, mentor, retain members inclusive of all identities (individual and institutional).

- As we continue with the above initiatives, information will be collected regarding experiences of our members. In addition, you may have received two surveys asking you three questions each about your member experience. That information will now be examined and will help inform this priority. To provide input beyond event evaluations and the member surveys, please contact Karen Joshua-Wathel or Akilah Jones.
- As you may know, for the past several months, the Research Committee has been analyzing the results from the salary survey of our members. The initial reports are available on the ASCA website under the Resources tab at <https://www.theasca.org/content.asp?contentid=185>. Be sure to login with your ASCA credentials to access this publication as well as the others mentioned.

8. Strategic Priority: Central Office Location/Relationship with Texas A&M.

- We have recently sent a letter to our membership regarding our location at Texas A&M. As you may know, we have been physically located at Texas A&M since our founding. We have decided to end our MOU with them and become completely independent. This is consistent with comparable associations and will allow us to have a business plan for the 21st Century.
- As of September 1, 2018, we have a new phone number and new email addresses for our central office staff. Those can be found at https://www.theasca.org/central_office.
- A full list of the Board of Directors can be found at <https://www.theasca.org/bod>.

If you are still reading this, thank you! It is important to me and all of the Board of Directors that our membership is informed to the best extent possible.

Sincerely,



Cathy Cocks
ASCA President

STAY CONNECTED!



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