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FLACADA SUNSHINE TIMES



FLACADA Sunshine Times - Conference Special Edition, October 2015

The FLACADA Steering Committee is proud to bring you this special edition of the Sunshine Times. This issue focuses on highlights from the annual conference including election information for Region IV leadership opportunities. Registration information and proposal guidelines as well as tips on how to get funding for the regional conference are provided. We hope you enjoy this edition of the FLACADA Sunshine Times!

39th Annual NACADA Conference Highlights





Region IV Mentor-Mentee Inaugural class

To see more pics from the 39th National NACADA Conference, [click here](#).

Over 4,300 professionals attended the 39th Annual NACADA Conference in Las Vegas! **271 of these were attendees from the state of Florida!** Networking opportunities were as plentiful as the learning opportunities! The Interactive Schedule Planner on the NACADA website shows sessions along with handouts in case anyone wants to view the information provided in each session. Links to the Interactive Schedule can be found [here](#).

Topics were informative and insightful often offering different perspectives on topics covered throughout the advising world.

Save the date and make plans to attend next year's conference in Atlanta from October 5-8, 2016! Let's make sure to represent Region IV and show some southern hospitality in the ATL!**



Region IV Leadership, Scholarship, and Awards

Make sure to pay attention to elections within NACADA. Leadership positions are available now! Nominations will be taken until October 30. To read about available positions or to make a nomination, [click here!](#)

Awards and Scholarship Applications are due Nov. 1!

[Find out more about awards and scholarships!](#)

If you are not ready for a leadership position, but want to get involved, [JOIN A COMMISSION!](#)

Region IV Conference



The Region IV conference is being held here in the Sunshine State in 2016. Help us represent FLACADA and make plans to gather together as we represent our great state in Orlando!

Region IV Conference Theme:

"The Magic of Advising: A Roller Coaster Worth Riding"

Region IV Conference Dates:

Wednesday, March 16 to Friday, March 18th, 2016, 2016 Orlando, FL!

Conference Proposals are due Friday, December 18!

[Click here for more conference information!](#)

Proposal Submission Criteria



Submission Criteria for Proposals

Proposals may be submitted via the NACADA site by clicking [here](#).

Criteria for selection of paper/presentation:

Proposals will be evaluated based on relevance to current issues in advising, appeal to conference participants, creativity, ingenuity, and applicability for participants after the conference. We are seeking a wide range of presentation topics relating to academic advising from a variety of advising professionals in our region.

Eligibility for submission:

Those who are involved in advising- administration, faculty, full-time advisors and administrative staff are invited to submit proposals. We encourage novices and experienced presenters alike. Share your research, best practices or techniques with colleagues in the region.

Proposals should include your presentation title, learning objectives, and desired format (i.e. panel, roundtable, etc.) Titles do not need to incorporate the conference theme.

Please include a brief abstract describing your presentation and the desired learning objectives. Abstracts will be included in the conference program and on the conference website. Please limit abstracts to 130 words.

Format options for conference sessions include paper or topic presentations, panel discussions, and roundtable discussions. Paper or topic presentations and panel sessions discuss current issues in advising. Some are based on research, some share best practices, and some are developmental, while others are theoretical. The format may be mostly lecture with a discussion following, a panel session followed by questions, or a more informal discussion. Roundtable sessions are less-structured discussions on relevant advising topics that generate audience/presenter interaction. All sessions will be approximately 1 hour long.

The above information was obtained from the Region IV conference website [here](#).

Boss "Buy" In: A How-To Guide



Sell the Conference!

How to convince those who control the purse strings of the value of your attendance at a NACADA Event!

Making your case for participation:

All too often, people who want to attend a NACADA event simply submit a request and cross their fingers. As a prospective attendee, you may need to SELL the need for your continued professional development by showing how conference participation will relate directly to the strategies and objectives of your institution. Here are other some steps you can use to build a case for attending a NACADA regional conference!

1. Write down three to five most important strategies or issues being addressed at your institution now.

1. Think about how your work is aligned with the larger institution's strategy or mission. Make a list of your "personal contributions to strategy."

1. Submit a presentation proposal! Acceptance of a presentation at a conference will not only help you share valuable information with the participants, but also gives your institution positive recognition among peer colleges. It may be the deciding factor in funding your participation.

1. Look at the proposed agenda for the conference and mark the sessions you want to attend that relate to your institutions strategies. Make note of people at the event that you would like to meet.

1. Write a short business case for how attending these sessions and meeting these people will help you contribute to the institution's strategy. For example, part of your request might read as follows: "At present, our institution is highly focused on transitioning undecided students. My personal contribution to this strategy is to be responsible for finding ways to help students graduate in four years. At the conference, there is a session entitled, "Tools for Students in Transition: Working with Undecided Students." I would like to attend this session and also meet with the presenter privately in order to discuss how to incorporate relevant ideas presented in the session.

1. You would also want to include a copy of your presentation proposal and abstract of the session that was selected for the program. You may want to point out ways your presentation will give recognition to the university and provide an opportunity for positive interactions with colleagues.

Preparing for the Meeting:

Once you get approval, you should prepare properly for the conference because you are going to need to demonstrate that you received the benefits (and more) that you promised to the person who's paying your way. Here are some things you can do to prepare for the conference.

1. Make a list of people you would like to meet at the conference and why you want to meet them. Don't be shy about approaching presenters and other "luminaries." They are more accessible than you might think, especially if you make plans with them in advance.

1. About 1-2 weeks prior to the conference, contact the people on your list. Make a specific plan

for a meal, coffee, or a time and place to get together.

1. One week prior to the meeting, make a personal agenda for yourself that includes the sessions you will attend and the people you're meeting.

1. When you are at the meeting, try to stick to your schedule as much as possible and take notes during the educational sessions and during your private conversations.

After the Meeting

1. Immediately following the conference (perhaps on the airplane or car ride home), write or dictate a summary of what happened at the conference and how you will use the information you received and contacts you made. Write this summary quickly, while the information is fresh in your mind!

1. Submit the summary to the person who sponsored your attendance, thanking him or her for the opportunity. The purpose of this summary is to make your next conference request even easier than the first. Once your administrators understand that you mean business when you attend a conference, they'll be more likely to quickly approve your participation.

1. If the knowledge you gained might also be useful to other in your organization, then you might consider rewriting portions of your summary or presentation as a blog or Twitter post to your colleagues! The NACADA Academic Advising Today is always looking for "Sparklers" or articles to share lessons learned, so investigate that possibility and share the wealth!

Source: Meetingsnet.com, April 2009

2016 FLACADA Drive-In Conference



The FLACADA drive-in conference will be held Monday, May 2, 2016 in Jacksonville, FL and will be hosted by the University of North Florida.

The conference promises to be an exciting time filled with professional development and networking opportunities.

More details are forthcoming in the next issue of the newsletter!

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