

June 2021 Newsletter





The Future of Living and Learning on Campus

The COVID-19 global pandemic has resulted in a major shift that has impeded campus housing and residence life operations. With each passing semester, increased public health information becomes available, which enables college and university professionals to be more responsive to the needs of students by improving their service delivery systems. Post-secondary institutions in North Carolina quickly pivoted by reducing occupancy and initiating a host of protocols to mitigate the spread of the disease. Hence, as housing and residence life operations professionals plan for a closer-to-normal fall 2021 re-entry they should focus on the following three areas:

- Continued Impact of COVID-19 on housing operations
- Isolation/quarantine for students
- Mental health and wellbeing

In North Carolina a couple of private institutions have required students to be vaccinated prior to returning for fall 2021. Conversely at this time, The University of North Carolina System Office has not mandated that students be vaccinated prior to returning to campus in the fall, but has strongly recommended the vaccine. Therefore, it is important to be aware of the COVID-19 variants and the fact that this disease will continue to impact students more harshly who are not vaccinated.

Isolation and quarantine areas will need to be reserved and maintained. Housing and residence life operations departments are encouraged to intentionally provide support to these students by hiring temporary COVID Health Care Coordinators.

Most importantly, the mental health and wellbeing of both our students and staff is of paramount importance. It is important to develop and implement support systems for our students so they have resources to deal with the stressors caused by this pandemic. Lastly, it is critically important that we take care of ourselves during this time so that we can effectively serve our students and assist each other.

John Lowney, Ph.D.

(Executive Director of Housing and Residence Life, North Carolina A&T State University)



NASPA NC Member Spotlight - [Angie Smith, Ph.D.](#)



Associate Professor and Program Coordinator at N.C. State University

NASPA NC Board Member

Where are you from?

I am originally from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and moved to North Carolina about twenty years ago to the Raleigh area.

Why did you decide to pursue a career in higher education?

While in my undergraduate program at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, I was always active in student organizations throughout my four years. I worked as a peer health educator and connected with a multitude of student groups across the campus during this experience. This role and experience set the tone for my future in higher education. I identify as a first generation college student and a significant reason I decided to join



the profession was to support students to navigate the various pathways and opportunities within higher education.

Why did you join NASPA? How long have you been a member?

I have been a member of NASPA throughout my career in higher education. This past year, I wanted to take a more active role in the organization as I continue to work with graduate students who are pursuing a variety of careers within higher education. As I meet with students and serve as a mentor to students, I hope to be able to provide current and relevant information about the profession to foster their learning and growth while in the graduate program and throughout their lifespan.

What are you most looking forward to in NASPA NC?

In joining NASPA, I am most excited about connecting with colleagues across the state and collectively supporting issues that are essential to higher education at this pivotal time in our history.

In your opinion, what is the most pressing issue surrounding higher education (or what are you most passionate about) and why?

As a licensed clinical mental health counselor and higher education professional, I am most concerned with student, faculty, and staff mental health in our communities. Focusing on our mental health and wellness will be critical as we move forward within higher education and within our community.

What advice would you give to professionals aspiring for a career in higher education or newer to the field?

The advice I would give to a professional aspiring to enter a career in higher education is the advice I was given many years ago. The profession is extremely rewarding in so many ways. At the same time, in any helping profession, there are many demands on your time and multiple competing priorities. It is important to remember to take time for yourself to restore, rest, and rejuvenate.



Carve out time on your calendar to take that lunch break, go for a walk, talk to a friend or family member, grab a snack, or engage in an area that you enjoy. In higher education roles, taking this time to rejuvenate can be extremely difficult, but necessary. Selfcare is not selfish. As we know, it is virtually impossible to “pour from an empty cup”.

What is the last book you read?

As a counselor, I am often reading books about the field. The one I am currently reading is entitled *Set Boundaries, Find Peace ~ a guide to reclaiming yourself* by Nedra Glover Tawwab.

Favorite Netflix Show?

In my family, my partner and kids typically have their favorite shows that I watch with them. I love spending time at the beach and enjoyed watching the *Outer Banks* series during quarantine since I was missing the ocean.

What is one thing that not many people know about you?

I worked in Human Resources for about eight years before moving into the counseling and higher education profession.



Apr 16, 2021

Associate Teaching Professor Angie Smith Receives NC State's 2020-21 Outstanding Teacher Award

Virtual Mentoring Opportunity - July 14

The Professional Connections Committee has been hard at work through the end of the semester and is happy to announce our first event. The event will be a virtual group mentoring opportunity for those interested at any level of experience-- from undergraduate students to senior student affairs officers. The program will be facilitated by members of the NASPA NC Professional Connections Committee and will focus on Developing Leadership Skills and Cultivating Your Own Personal Leadership Style. The event will be held virtually on **July 14th at 3pm**. A Zoom link will be sent to all registrants a week before the event. Interested in participating? [Register Here](#).

Want to be a part of planning events like this, or have an idea for an event? Interested in connecting with other NASPA NC members? Email Michael Reynolds at m.reynolds@wingate.edu to find out more about the opportunities on the Professional Connections Committee. All are welcome.

Professional Development Events and Resources

Fall Virtual Drive-In Conference

We are excited to share that we will be hosting a Fall Virtual Drive-In Conference on October 27, 2021. More information is forthcoming on opportunities to present and network with our colleagues from across the state.





Summer Workshop Series

The professional development committee will be hosting a virtual lunch workshop series in July for our colleagues to come together to talk about trends and issues happening in our profession. Our first workshop will be on Friday, July 9th. You will need to register for each event separately. **This series is open to everyone, so please share with all peers and colleagues (including non-NASPA members).** See below for more information and how to register.

Friday, July 9, 2021 at Noon

Topic: Post-Covid support for rising sophomores and transfer students

Students who entered universities in fall 2020 engaged in a collegiate experience that lacked the traditional onboarding and transitional programs. This workshop will discuss potential challenges faced by this group of students and various ways universities can support this unique group of students.

Register Here: [Workshop 1](#)

Friday, July 16, 2021 at Noon

Topic: Fall transition back to campus

Many campuses are having conversations about fully transitioning back to campus, and we want to know what is happening at your institution. Participants will hear from leaders across the state and share their respective re-entry plans while networking with others.

Register Here: [Workshop 2](#)



Friday, July 23, 2021 at Noon

Topic: New Work/Life Balance

Pivot was the 2020 word of the year in higher education and student affairs. With many professionals, faculty, and students engaging remotely, a new normal was presented. We are continuing to re-envision what our work looks like. This workshop will allow a space for people to discuss how their campuses are redefining work-life integration and what wellness strategies people have implemented during this on-going pandemic.

Register Here: [Workshop 3](#)

Friday, July 30, 2021 at Noon

Topic: Mental health of students, faculty, and staff

Register Here: [Workshop 4](#)

This workshop will explore the effects of COVID-19 on college students', faculty and staff's mental health and the health needs shift as the pandemic lifts. Participants will learn about resources they can use on their campus as well as share experiences on what they have learned and what steps are being done to address mental health needs of their campus community.

What's Going on in Higher Education and Student Affairs?



Click on the article links below to learn more about current trends, issues and best practices in higher education and student affairs.

- [Pandemic-To-Permanent: 11 Lasting Changes To Higher Education](#)
- [11 Top Trends in Higher Education: 2020/2021 Data, Insights & Predictions](#)
- [Four Emerging Trends Facing the Future of Higher Education](#)
- [The evolution of higher education: 2021 trends](#)
- ['Everybody's Got Your Back': Life at an HBCU During a Turbulent Year](#)
- ['Those That Stay the Same During a Transition End Up Losing'](#)
- [Considering Work-From-Anywhere Policies for College Employees?](#)
- [Is a Fair Title IX System Possible?](#)
- [Outcomes: 2020-2021 Almanac Data Highlights](#)
- [How to make implicit bias programs have a significant impact](#)



Graduate Program Highlight

UNCW's Master and Doctoral Programs in Higher Education



The University of North Carolina Wilmington (UNCW) Higher Education Programs in the Department of Educational Leadership at the Watson College of Education is a diverse and dynamic group of educators and scholars committed to improving leadership at all levels of education. Our department features award-winning faculty with advanced degrees and deep experience in the field. We offer an M.Ed. in Higher Education, an Ed.D. in Educational Leadership specialization in Higher Education Leadership, and a Certificate in Community College Leadership.

The HED programs are all offered in a hybrid format which means there are synchronous bi-weekly class sessions and asynchronous work in the alternating weeks. We also have two options for students to enroll in our programs either as a Main-Campus or Distance Education student. Students attend classes either fully on-campus or fully as distance students via Zoom but are all participating in the classes together. This format provides flexibility for full-time professionals who may need access to distance education options. We accept students from a variety of backgrounds into the program and actively seek to craft a diverse cohort each year. This diversity of experiences and skills gives students the opportunity to learn inside and out of the classroom and to build professional relationships that can last their entire career.

One of the unique aspects of our program is our international internship program with Maynooth University in Ireland. This internship provides students, in both the master's and doctoral programs, with meaningful opportunities to practice administrative and leadership work, conduct assessment or research-based projects, or develop educational or social programming for student and academic service units at an international institution of higher education.





Master of Education in Higher Education

The Master of Education (M.Ed.) in Higher Education is designed for people who wish to enter or advance in administrative or student support roles in colleges and universities. The program curriculum provides social, historical, legal, and developmental perspectives of higher education and college students through applied learning. Students are eligible to apply for Graduate Assistantship positions which allow them to engage in supervised professional practice and provides the opportunity to connect theory to practice. Each student completes a culminating project that demonstrates their engagement in an original line of inquiry based on a topic of their choosing. While students have the option of completing a typical thesis, they also have the freedom to present their projects in a variety of formats from assessment plans and curriculums to grants and scholarly publications. Graduates of the program have entered a range of positions across the country, such as academic advising, career advising, international education, and student leadership training, and have also pursued doctoral degrees in top education programs.

Community College Leadership Certificate

The Post-Baccalaureate Certificate program in Community College Leadership is a 12-credit hour program designed for community college administrators and faculty members. This program, however, is not restricted to those already working in community colleges but is open to anyone interested in doing so in the future. Courses focus on teaching and learning at community colleges and provide an overview of the mission, functions and diversity among leadership as well as organizational management, including policy and budgeting. The summer sessions bring students and community leaders together for courses and events. Students complete a culminating project that is informed by scholarship and research related to their professional area of interest.

Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership

The Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) program in Educational Leadership with a specialization in Higher Education Leadership focuses on the preparation of scholar-practitioners in the field of higher education and student affairs administration. The program provides an in-depth study of the organization, administration, staffing, funding, and student experience at postsecondary education institutions. The program is designed and paced to accommodate the schedule of full-time professionals while allowing them to complete the program part-time. The leadership core courses provide a foundation in leadership and organizational theory and practice combined with courses that help develop skills and knowledge in research methodology. The curriculum is designed to connect theory and practice and help students become more effective scholar-practitioners in postsecondary education institutions.



Graduate Program Highlight

UNC Greensboro's Doctoral Programs in Higher Education



At UNC Greensboro, we are committed to the holistic development of our doctoral students. The PhD in Educational Studies program offers personally tailored professional development opportunities that help students develop the skills, knowledge, and attitudes necessary for shaping the dynamic environments of institutions of higher education and society. Our program is committed to helping our students grow in their scholar identity in order to become thought leaders and well-rounded professionals.

As students and higher education professionals, UNCG doctoral students are actively involved in the life of the university and the wider higher education community. With opportunities like co-teaching, writing for publication, and serving on conference committees, doctoral students are able to put theory to practice and make real-world impacts both locally and beyond.

Sincerely,

[Dr. Laura Gonzalez](#)

“I chose this program because it celebrated my intersectional identities and was somewhere that I could be authentically me. You deserve to be in a program that celebrates and contributes to you and I feel that the program at UNC Greensboro has helped me become a more confident professional and scholar.”

Detric Robinson-Miller- Ph.D. Educational Studies- Higher Education



Featured Job Postings



- [Health Educator - Davidson College](#)
- [Assistant Director for Diversity and Inclusion - Davidson College](#)
- [Staff Counselor/Psychologist - Wake Forest University](#)
- [Staff Psychologist - Wake Forest University](#)
- [Associate Director of Student Activities and New Student Orientation - Gardner-Webb University](#)
- [Manager, Corporate Communications and Outreach - Cabarrus College of Health Sciences](#)



Are you interested in becoming more involved with NASPA NC? Do you have content (job postings, articles, upcoming events on your campus, etc...) you would like shared in our newsletter? Would you like to connect with our board members to provide ideas and recommendations for the future? Email us at ncnaspa@gmail.com.