

Victoria Barnum

Higher Education and Student Affairs Graduate Assistant

Ohio University

**Professional Involvement:**

Represented Ohio University at the Careers in Student Affairs Conference and the Annual Conference for OCPA. As a member of NASPA and ACPA, I am attending both conferences next month to assist with our sponsored programs.

**Why are you interested in participating as a member of the OCPA Executive Board?**

As someone new to the state of Ohio, the opportunity to serve on the OCPA Executive Board would allow me to make more connections and serve a wider population of people. The chance to work with the OCPA Executive Board would be a unique opportunity, especially given my current role. Serving as the Graduate Assistant for the Higher Education and Student Affairs (HESA) program at Ohio University, I work with both faculty and staff within the field of student affairs. Interacting with student affairs from both areas, I find myself wanting more experience with the practitioner side. The chance to serve with the OCPA Executive Board would enhance my understanding of the field and introduce me to running of a statewide organization. The chance to work with and learn from a diverse group of practitioners and institutions would be the highlight of this role.

**What qualities and skills do you think you can bring to the indicated position(s) and to the OCPA Board?**

After serving two years on the Curriculum and Education Policy Committee at my undergraduate institution, I found that I enjoyed the technical, behind the scenes work of committees and boards. I feel that this longstanding interest is one of the most valuable qualities I can bring to the OCPA Board. Additionally, I enjoy working as part of a team and participating in the decision making process. I am comfortable taking direction, delegating, and leading discussion. Specifically addressing the role of the Graduate Student-At-Large, my current role and undergraduate work compliment the responsibilities. In my assistantship and as an undergraduate leader, I connect with students in person and over social media. This experience will be useful for implementing the graduate ambassador program across Ohio. Overall, my passion as a lifelong learner informs my decision-making and lends well to this role.

**What do you believe to be the role of professional associations like OCPA?**

Professional associations like OCPA offer members of the student affairs community the chance to engage outside of their own programs, offices, and institutions. The networking, advice, and opportunity for leadership roles brings together professionals from such a wide variety of campuses. I especially see great opportunity in ways to connect with the graduate student population. Perhaps the connections graduate students make during the annual conference or

as a part of the ambassador program will strengthen their connection to Ohio. With strong leadership and engaging programming, groups like OCPA draw people to the field while keeping talented people in Ohio. Working with a group like OCPA would be a uniquely beneficial experience for my time in Ohio and my life after graduate school.