

Ardy Gonyer

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Professional Involvement:

I have had a strong history of involvement in OCPA, beginning in 2011 as the co-chair for the Educational Sessions committee for the OCPA annual conference. Since that time, I have served on the OCPA Executive Board as the Assistant Conference Chair in 2012-13, the Conference Chair in 2013-14, and the Professional Development Institute Chair in 2014-15. I was also the chair of the Faculty/SSAO Involvement Committee for the annual conference in 2015-16 and the Mid-Level Manager's Pre-Conference Institute Chair in 2016-17. I have also been active in ACPA serving on the Commission for Student Conduct and Legal Issues since 2011, and serving in the roles of Chair-Elect, Chair, and Past Chair from 2013-2017. Additionally, I have served on many institutional committees, from being the chair of the Professional Development Committee for the Division of Student Affairs at Ohio University for three years to the co-chair of the Recruitment and Retention Committee in BGSU's College of Education and Human Development currently. I also have been a part of 19 professional conference and invited presentations at the local, regional, state and national levels. In 2013, I was awarded the Mark G. Nofzinger New Professional of the Year Award by OCPA.

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

First and foremost, I am interested in serving because I want to give back to an organization that has given so much to me. Over the years, OCPA has truly been my professional home. I hope that by serving on the Executive Board, I can help to continue to build the organization so that it will be a professional home for new and seasoned professionals alike for many years to come.

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

I believe that my previous experience with OCPA is one of the greatest attributes I will bring to serving as one of the tri-Presidents. My historical knowledge of OCPA helps me to understand both where we have been as an organization and where we are going. This will greatly aid the board in the upcoming year as the board prepares a new strategic plan and revisits OCPA's current relationship with ACPA. Additionally, I have strong leadership skills that will be useful in moving the board toward our common goals. Having served as the chair or president of multiple organizations, boards, and committees over the past several years has taught me how to prioritize goals, delegate responsibility, and lead a group toward a common purpose. I believe that leadership is shared and thus, input should be sought from both the board and the membership at-large about important decisions. Leadership also includes building

relationships. I believe that the relationships I already have with a variety of professionals in the state, as well as my ability to form new relationships will greatly aid me in my service as a tri-president. Communication is also key to being an effective leader. Throughout my various leadership experiences, I have learned about communicating with a variety of constituents. I would work to make sure that the board is communicating regularly with the membership and vice-versa. I also possess strong organizational skills and a will to persist, both of which will be beneficial in this role.

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

Professional associations such as OCPA are the primary way that higher education professionals can attain further education and knowledge outside of participating in a degree program. I believe that now, more than ever, OCPA needs to provide high-quality, low-cost professional development to the membership. This certainly comes in the form of an annual conference, but should also come in other various ways throughout the years. The Professional Development Institute's have been a wonderful addition to OCPA, however we need to continue to be innovative in ways that we can produce and disseminate quality professional development to members of all experience levels. This professional development can also come in the form of leadership roles. I believe OCPA is one of the best avenues to gain leadership experience, especially for newer professionals. We need to be intentional about creating leadership opportunities for all of our members rather than just those that are "known" to us. This also means being intentional about having folks from diverse backgrounds in leadership positions. Diversity should not only be people who have varied social identities, but also professionals from diverse institutional types (i.e. 2-year colleges) and professionals of diverse experience levels. Additionally, OCPA should be a place where members can connect with colleagues across the state, both those who are old friends and those who may be unknown to us. Providing avenues of connection allows professionals to draw upon each other's experiences in order to learn new and unique ways of achieving success.