

2018-19 OCPA Executive Board Nominee Information

Nominee Name: Courtney Harris

Nominee Institution: Bowling Green State University & Baldwin Wallace University

Title: Hall Director & Graduate Assistant for Student Activities

Positions for Consideration: Graduate Student Members-at-Large

Please describe your involvement with OCPA.

I became a member of OCPA when I moved to Ohio this fall. Since then, I have attended the OCPA Careers in Student Affairs Conference and the OCPA Annual Conference. At both, I was able to learn from and network with peers in the field. At the OCPA Annual Conference, I gave my first conference presentation, Creating Change from the Bottom Up: How to Inspire Change as a Graduate Student. Additionally, I participated in and won the Robert A. Dubick Case Study Competition. The positive experiences I have had as a member of OCPA this year have made me want to become more involved in the organization in the coming year.

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

I would like to participate on the OCPA executive board to provide opportunities for my peers to develop professionally as well as continue to develop myself. As a member of the OCPA Executive Board, I would have the opportunity to help in the planning of both the OCPA Careers in Student Affairs and Annual conferences. These conferences provide undergraduate students with information and support while choosing to pursue a career in student affairs and offer graduate students and professionals opportunity to network and create presentations. In addition to helping facilitate these opportunities to develop, I will have the chance to represent graduate students to the organization. This will help me network with graduate students across the state and help me further develop my abilities to communicate and advocate professionally. This position will play to my current skill set as well as challenge me to step out of my comfort zone and grow as a student affairs professional.

What qualities and skills do you think you can bring to the indicated positions, and to the OCPA Board?

The qualities and skills that I would bring to this position include a strong ability to collaborate, communication skills, relationship building, a desire to gather feedback for improvement, and experience programming and planning events. These skills will help me work well with other members of the OCPA Board. I will seek and be open to collaboration with members of the board, I will be sure to communicate professionally and effectively with members of the board and especially with the second Graduate Student Member. I will be sure to seek feedback from OCPA members that I work and interact with to bring new ideas and improvements to the organization. My event planning experience can also help when it comes to planning professional development sessions and conferences.

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

Associations like OCPA serve many important purposes, all of which connect back to the service of students. Professional associations like OCPA directly serve students by providing opportunities for professional development, networking, and the exploration of the student affairs field. Through conferences. Undergraduate students can develop as student leaders and learn about student affairs and graduate programs for student affairs masters programs in the state. Organizations like OCPA also work to support those who serve students. OCPA provides opportunities for graduate students and professionals to learn from one another formally through presentations at conferences and professional development institutes as well as informally through networking and relationship building to share advice and best practices. Organizations like OCPA can also work together to set goals and a vision for its members to engage in continued growth, learning, and development to best serve students.