

2018-19 OCPA Executive Board Nominee Information

Nominee Name: Jade Hunt

Nominee Institution: Ohio State University

Title: Honors Program Coordinator

Positions for Consideration: 4 Year Public Member-at-Large

Please describe your involvement with OCPA.

My involvement in OCPA has been small, but important in shaping who I want to be as a leader in our field. I joined OCPA as a first-year graduate student while still trying to figure out my path in higher ed. That year I attended both NASPA and OCPA, but felt like I had truly met “my people” at OCPA. The next year, I committed to doing multiple presentations, encouraged more graduate students to join, and ended the conference feeling reassured about my decision to limit my job search to only Ohio schools. This year, I attended the annual conference with the new lens of being a full-time professional. I was able to meet many new people and reconnect with others, while also supporting my own graduate student through her first OCPA experience. Although it has only been three years since my journey began, I feel even the small opportunities I have taken within the organization have helped bring me to where I am today, and I would love to continue to grow while helping others do the same.

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

I am interested in participating more within OCPA because I believe I am at a point in my life and my career where I can help to guide and support others while continuing on my own path of growth and development.

Looking back to my first semester of graduate school, I remember struggling to see aspects of my journey or interests reflected in my peers or the classes we were taking. Joining OCPA was a pivotal point in my higher ed. path because it afforded me the opportunity to really connect with others. Through presentations and conversations that first year, I began to see how my own student affairs journey could take shape and how my unique interests could play an important role in what I could contribute to the field. Although these interactions were not with the Executive Board directly, the work board members do help to ensure experiences like these continue to happen, and I want nothing more than to be a part of that as my own journey continues.

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

From the member-at-large position description and through conversations with previous board members, one of the most challenging aspects of this position seems to be encapsulating the wide variety of interests of across institutions. In this regard, what could be most valuable to this position and to the board overall is the plethora of experiences I have had in the short time

I have been in the field. I have had the opportunity to work in and across many functional areas, in both academic and student affairs settings, and at multiple institution types. These experiences have made me observant of the difference in needs institutions and specific offices have, as well as the commonalities between them, which can be incredibly useful when recruiting from and representing a wide variety of constituents. Additionally, my own experiences as a first-gen and low SES student may help to further diversify the board and encourage other underrepresented constituents to join and be more involved.

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

When I think of my experiences with OCPA and professional associations in general, the first word that comes to mind is fellowship. A quick search shows a number of definitions for fellowship, some academic in nature, and others focused more on the idea of companionship, comradery, and mutual interest. I think this, more than anything, provides a scope of the role professional associations are to play in the lives of their members. OCPA and other associations have provided me the opportunity to grow personally and professionally. I have been introduced to new perspectives and collaborated with people I would not usually have the opportunity to interact with. While sometimes academic in nature, professional associations also hold the responsibility of providing space and opportunity where interactions like these can occur. These opportunities allow us to support and learn from each other and are key to ensuring the field continues to grow and develop well into the future.