

2018-19 OCPA Executive Board Nominee Information

Nominee Name: Colette Masterson

Nominee Institution: Otterbein University

Title: Director, Center for Student Involvement

Positions for Consideration: President-Elect

Please describe your involvement with OCPA.

I have had the pleasure of being involved with OCPA for over 12 years. I still vividly remember attending the OCPA Careers in Student Affairs Conference as a junior considering pursuing this field, and after attending the conference, I was hooked! Since that time, I have been a consistent conference attendee, presenter, and volunteer. More than ten years ago I served in my first executive board role as the Graduate Student Member at Large 2006-2007. The following year I was appointed to serve as the Support Staff Conference Chair, an event we no longer host. I then served as the OCPA Treasurer 2008 – 2010. Most recently I am completing my term as the 4-Year Private Member at Large 2016-2018.

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

It has been a great personal and professional pleasure to serve on the OCPA Board throughout my career. After returning to the board in 2016, it was inspiring to see how much had changed and to see first-hand the efforts to continue to improve our professional association. With the President-Elect position open this year I have greatly considered if I could continue to contribute to those efforts. My experience on the board across more than 10 years provides both historical context and an understanding of how much can change with the passionate work of the OCPA Board and its members. I want to continue to be part of that change as we envision the future of our association and how it serves our members across the state of Ohio.

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

My passion and dedication to OCPA are among the qualities that will contribute to my success if elected President-Elect. Having been a member of the OCPA Board in various roles and across different times within our association, I have perspective on historical precedent and current opportunities. Having worked at various types of institutions, including large public and small private, while also being a doctoral student at a mid-sized institution, I often consider how OCPA can best position itself to serve higher education and student affairs professionals throughout our state. Additionally, my ability to balance the big picture with small details will enable me to consider thoughtfully the many opportunities our association may address while working with the OCPA Board to strive to be relevant and effective for all members.

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

OCPA has been my consistent professional home. While each of us may have very specific areas of responsibility and expertise, the value of OCPA is the opportunity to network and support our field within our state. As professionals, we work to develop our students and our staffs, and likewise our profession is improved when we develop our peers and our practices. OCPA should be strategically positioned to be the conduit to connect colleagues across the state, share best practices, and create knowledge within our field. Additionally, the role of OCPA should also reflect the needs of its members and assessing those needs regularly.