

## **2018-19 OCPA Executive Board Nominee Information**

**Nominee Name:** Daniel Schafer-Kuhlman

**Nominee Institution:** The Ohio State University

**Title:** Hall Director

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

### **Please describe your involvement with OCPA.**

The involvement with OCPA has been relatively newfound, however, the welcome I have felt from the organization has given me the feeling of a lifelong member. This past year, I was not only a first-time attendee of the annual conference, but also submitted and was accepted to present my own program at the conference. This was not only an enlightening, but also a motivating and inclusive experience. My future plans with OCPA are, of course, to ideally hold a position on the Executive Board, but if not, to continue my active membership with the organization, its conference(s), and its members.

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

As a second-year, full-time professional, I have been able to witness the realm of local, state-wide, and national student affairs organizations from many perspectives: as an undergraduate student, graduate student, and as full-time. I now feel comfortable in my role in Residence Life, and because the option to be full, full-time is non-existent, my next goal is to add supplementary experiences to my own professional development. I believe that not only will being an Executive Board member of OCPA contribute to my own occupational growth, but I will be able to contribute to the organization with an non-traditional student affairs and educational background and knowledge base.

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

As the Member-at-Large Four-Year Public, I believe I would be able to use my experience of working at almost exclusively four-year, public institutions to continue the interest of these colleges and universities who are currently involved in OCPA, but also encourage participation from colleagues at institutions who have not traditionally been involved with the organization. In this role, it would be my goal for the 2019 Annual Conference to be attended by a record amount of four-year, public institutions in Ohio. To achieve this goal, I would communicate personally and strategically with members who have not been as active, or active at all, and would utilize data from previous institutional involvement to prioritize this communication. Finally, as a professional who has experience working with two-year and private colleges, I understand the need for diverse contribution by all institutions of higher education in Ohio, and can work with the other members-at-large to secure motivated collegial participation.

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

I believe organization like OCPA has multiple purposes, but there are a two that stand out as the primary uses of those who are members of them. First, expanding one's knowledge base through educational programming and participation is a staple in student affairs organizations like OCPA, and often, the responsibility falls on the Executive Board of these organizations to ensure quality, educational experiences for those who utilize institutional or personal funding to attend. The second primary use of associations like OCPA, I believe, is networking. Remaining in the comfortable working environment we're used to does not further our field, nor does it benefit the students we serve. Organizations such as OCPA provide multiple, necessary opportunities for its members to learn from other practices from multiple types on institutions of higher education.