

2019 Ohio College Personnel Association

Elections Information

Lacey Filkins – President-Elect Candidate

Please describe your involvement with OCPA.

I have served the Association in the following ways: Careers Conference planning committee (2015); Careers Conference co-chair (2016); Professional Development Chair (2017-2019). In my role as Professional Development chair I have been able to extend the Professional Development offerings through intentional collaborations and by adding virtual events. These PDIs have included three virtual book clubs, three population-specific collaborations with the At-Large members, and two drive-in events in collaboration with various campuses. The most recent drive-in event was in planned collaboration with Bricker & Eckler Law Firm and focused on legal issues in student affairs. This event had over 70 professionals in attendance and offered everyone a space to learn and discuss the ever-changing legal expectations of our institutions. In addition to these formal roles, I have also been a volunteer in various capacities such as the Winter Awards Committee and Annual Conference volunteer.

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

Having the opportunity to grow and give back to the profession is the most important reason that I am interested in participating as a member of the OCPA Executive Board, particularly as the 2019-20 President Elect. There are two main ways I believe I would be able to do this. First, students at my current institution by in large do not tend to go into Higher Education as a profession, but my participation in OCPA and on the Board has allowed me to help mentor the next generation of professionals through PDIs, resume review, and mock interviews. Second, I believe that OCPA should be a higher education “thought leader” in the state and serve an idea-sharing platform. In order for us to realize this goal, I believe that we need to expand the membership base of senior professionals. As we approach the 50th anniversary of the organization, it is my hope that as President Elect I can help continue to move OCPA into next 50 years while respecting and celebrating its long tradition.

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

Being on the OCPA board in various capacities over the last three years has afforded me the opportunity to see the big picture of the organization. Additionally, I have done my best to advance the profession by not just attending annual conferences, but presenting eight times over the last five conferences. In my role as Professional Development chair, I have had the opportunity to plan and execute seven different Professional Development Institutes. These PDIs have included the implementation of virtual offerings and population-specific programs. In my role as the Associate Director of New Student Programs at Kenyon College, I have the opportunity to work with large groups of people to achieve a common goal. Finally, throughout my career, I have worked at large research institutions, small public institutions, and small private institutions and these experiences have given me a broad knowledge base on the different challenges faced by different institution types.



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

First, one of the core values of OCPA states that we are committed to data-driven practice and disseminating information that informs our work as higher education professionals. I believe that our membership looks to us to be responsive to changes and trends in the profession as they relate to the state of Ohio. Second, looking directly at the OCPA vision statement, it is clear that the association places a great deal of value on creating a “a diverse, active, connected, and energized network of higher education professionals.” I believe that the size and scope of OCPA is what allows us to do this through our annual conference, regular professional development institutes, and a myriad of volunteer opportunities. Third, As higher education professionals and educators, students learning and development is at the center of everything we do and OCPA has a large role in facilitating a space for sharing ideas, best practices, and knowledge which allows us to keep students as the focus.