

2019 Ohio College Personnel Association

Elections Information

Renee Murry –

Graduate Student Member-at-Large Candidate

Please describe your involvement with OCPA.

As a first year graduate student in the Higher Education program at the University of Akron, my previous involvement with OCPA has been slim, however, that is why I am interested in serving on the board. Once I began my program I immediately joined as an OCPA member and read and value the communications sent by the organization. I see serving as the Graduate Student Member-at-Large as an opportunity to jump in and push the mission and vision of the organization forward.

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

Serving as the Graduate Student Member-at-Large on the OCPA Executive Board is not only an opportunity for me to grow in the higher education field, but also an opportunity to represent graduate students from across the state and serve in a change-making capacity. I am interested in serving on the board because it is an opportunity to be at the forefront of development within higher education and would allow me to bring my skills and knowledge to a role that allows graduate students a seat at the table. I want to work closely with other higher education professionals so that when I graduate I am not only able to continue to serve OCPA, but I am able to step into a position with an advanced knowledge on the needs of institutions across the state. Serving as the Graduate Student Member-at-Large will be an opportunity to not only give back to my campus community, but to the state as a whole.

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

In this role, I will be responsible for taking on many tasks and responsibilities. Through my professional work, I believe I have the skills and qualities to fulfill these needs. I will be responsible for coordinating the case study program at the annual conference, during my time at Ohio State I was responsible for coordinating a similar program for the graduate student body. Through my current position, I work closely on recruitment of undergraduate interns, as well as creating a network within the community for events and support. This experience has given me the necessary skills to establish liaisons in each program in Ohio and to create a retention plan.

In addition, I would describe myself as an outgoing and passionate person, and would be able and comfortable to promote OCPA across the state of Ohio. I have the flexibility to dedicate a substantial amount of time to the organization and would jump in and get to work from the start.

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

Professional associations, such as OCPA, serve many purposes in the higher education community. I believe the main role of these professional associations is to advance higher education to be an inclusive, beneficial learning environment



for students, faculty and staff. These organizations provide the tools for colleges and universities to cross collaborate with one another in order to better achieve their individual goals. On a graduate student level, these organizations help graduate students move from student to staff through professional development and networking opportunities. They provide students an opportunity to work closely with professionals in the field and allows them the opportunity to participate as an equal. These professional associations provide staff, faculty and students the tools necessary to create a positive impact in their campus community.