

2019 Ohio College Personnel Association

Elections Information

Zach Hooten –

Graduate Student Member-at-Large Candidate

Please describe your involvement with OCPA.

I have had many opportunities to be involved with OCPA since graduate school in 2012. I have greatly valued the association and how it continually works to connect and support higher education professionals at all levels, especially through the annual conference where I have been involved for many years. My first experience was at the 2014 annual conference when I was selected for my first presentation. Since that first conference, I presented twice more, in 2015 and 2018. Additionally, in 2016 I served on the annual conference planning committee. Lastly, in 2017 and 2018 I participated through tabling as a vendor.

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

I am interested in participating as a member of the OCPA Executive Board because of my value of education and professional development through community engagement. OCPA is a strong and well-respected association that offers myriad opportunities for professional and educational connections. I believe that development, especially professionally, cannot happen in a vacuum. For many, in an increasingly siloed field, OCPA offers educators opportunities to connect across institutional types and career paths. I want to work to continue developing these opportunities using sound practices such as institutional outreach and innovative assessment. The colleges and universities in Ohio have much to offer one another in the form of journal articles, webinars, workshops, and more. OCPA is uniquely positioned to bring professionals at these institutions together for the benefit of all. I want to help move the association forward so others can benefit as I have.

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

I have a passion for higher education and student affairs, and I believe it shows in my work ethic, personality, and skill development. Since I began my Ph.D. at Ohio State, I have learned more than I could have imagined about organizational leadership, research, assessment, and teaching. Specifically, for the Assistant Annual Conference Chair or the graduate student member-at-large position, I want to offer my perspectives and skills regarding leadership and assessment. Good teams are built by developing relational leadership practices where voices are heard and valued. I recognize that a conference is only as strong as the members of the planning committee. I am committed to positive recruitment, organization, and input. I also believe that strong assessment practices lead to greater success. In either position, I believe we must develop appropriate assessments to measure desired outcomes surrounding all OCPA programming and especially the learning and satisfaction associated with the annual conference.

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

Professional associations are created and maintained for the continued development of the field. OCPA specifically is in position to assist with the



professional development of students, practitioners, faculty, and administrators. This professional development can be multi-faceted in the form of conferences, journals, webinars, and innovative programming opportunities geared at establishing a cohesive network. In order to be truly developmental, OCPA should adopt a critical and inclusive analysis of the higher education landscape in Ohio. With an increasingly diverse student body, the field of higher education must work to create comprehensive practices that promote the development of underserved students and create opportunities for new ways of thinking about the collegiate experience. Professional associations like OCPA can collaboratively create competencies and standards that members can enact to improve the student experience while highlighting such practices through the aforementioned avenues.