

NACADA, the Global Community for Academic Advising, Region 3 hosted a three day conference at the Sheraton Hotel in Raleigh, North Carolina. The theme was *Inspiring Others to Reach Their Potential* and evidently UNCW Academic Advisors answered the call. UNCW had a significant presence at the conference with Academic Advisors from the University College (UC) and Watson College of Education (WCE) and delivered pre-conference and conference workshops. Workshop topics ranged from preparing advisors to enter the field, engaging students by leveraging resources and rendering unique services; to creating early registration and website processes as well as considering how doctoral studies influence advising practices. The comprehensive presenter list and workshop descriptions are listed below.

The New Advising Professionals, Advisor Training and Development pre-conference workshop was hosted by Dr. Melinda Anderson, Associate Dean of Undergraduate Studies and Director of University College. This workshop was designed for individuals completing a graduate school program or new to the profession. Participants completed self-assessments, critique cover letters and resumes as well as participated in mock interviews to help advisors conduct a successful job search. Dr. Anderson was also a member of Region 3 Conference Planning committee as Co-Chair for the Program Committee.

WCE Advisors, Ms. LeAnne Smith, Ms. Allison Rankin and Ms. Tanya Malacinski administered a workshop entitled *Connect Four: Advising, Teaching, Engaging and Networking, Helping Future Teachers Make the Right Moves*. Their workshop focused on promoting opportunities for engaging students through an education learning community (first-year seminar) and a student leadership program. WCE Advisors helped attendees explore how first-year education majors leverage their communal living and shared curricular experiences to excel in their tracks of study.

UC Coordinator of Special Programs, Ms. Jenny Adams, presented on *Supporting the Transitions of Early College High School Students (ECHS)*. Jenny's session was a round table discussion regarding this unique student population; especially their developmental, academic and transitional characteristics and needs as they matriculate to four-year colleges and universities. Ultimately, attendees discussed the challenges, opportunities and support mechanisms institutions can create to positively influence ECHS.

UC Advisor, Mr. Zack Underwood co-presented three workshops. One workshop was delivered with Dr. Don Presnell from Appalachian State University on *Building an Early Registration Process* which allows institutions to engage with incoming students and families before Orientation. Students who engage in early registration gain a foundation in curriculum, academic policies, and the registration system and ultimately have access to enroll in courses for their first semester. Participants created a plan for early registration for their institutions through instructivism and constructivism.

UC Advisor, Mr. Keryn Vickers co-presented the other two workshops with Mr. Zack Underwood. Keryn and Zack leveraged their personal experiences of pursuing doctoral degrees to create a workshop for *Advisors in Transition: Managing Stressful Doctoral Work and Academic Advising Responsibilities*. This workshop outlined the advantages and disadvantages of pursuing a doctoral degree as well as how being advised as an advisor influences your professional practice and personal goals. As a result of the workshop, they created an online support network for those in various stages of the doctoral practice. This support network will include a virtual coffee shop where advisors who are in the doctoral process can meet once a month to discuss issues and share resources.

Finally, Keryn and Zack presented on *Organizing Advising: Creating an Advisor Training Website*. Creating a website allows a centralized advising office such as University College an opportunity to have a starting point for new advisors and a constant point of reference for current advisors. The website streamlines the training process for new advisors and highlights existing resources for seasoned advisors. They discussed the start-up, challenges, and future growth opportunities associated with creating a website. If you would like more information on the training website please visit www.uncw.edu/uc/train.

University College Academic Advisors, Carly Wilson and Melissa Friddle, and Ms. Kristen Meyer from the College of Health and Human Services, also attended the conference.

About NACADA, the Global Community for Academic Advising

NACADA promotes and supports quality academic advising in institutions of higher education to enhance the educational development of students. NACADA provides a forum for discussion, debate, and the exchange of ideas pertaining to academic advising through numerous activities and publications. NACADA serves as an advocate for effective academic advising by providing a Consulting and Speaker Service and funding for Research related to academic advising. If you are interested in becoming a member of NACADA or learning more, visit: <http://www.nacada.ksu.edu/>.

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