Committee on Non-Academic Careers

2021–2022 Membership

Mark Barber, chair (2024)
Gina Helfrich (2024)
Aaron Kagan (2024)
Report of the Committee on Non-Academic Careers
30 September 2022

1. Committee Activities, 2021-2022

During 2021-2022 the Committee met by videoconference every six weeks.

The Committee organized two “APA live” webinars during 2021-2022. Committee webinars are primarily intended for two audiences: MA/PhD students or recent graduates who may be considering leaving academia, and departmental faculty who may advise these students and recent graduates regarding their careers. The two webinars offered last year were:

“Professional Skills for a Successful Career: An Introduction to ‘Crossover’ Skills” (7/21/2021)

“Launching a Career Beyond the Academy” (3/16/2022)

During the year the Committee conducted a survey to obtain more information about the kinds of projects MA/PhD students and recent graduates considering non-academic careers might find useful. Although the survey is ongoing, initial results suggested that these students and graduates would find (or would have found) a non-academic mentorship program quite useful. Accordingly, in June 2022 we initiated our non-academic mentorship program: current and former members of the Committee have agreed to serve as informal mentors for those considering leaving academia. The list of Non-Academic Mentors is now posted on the APA web page.

The Committee has also made the APA Non-Academic Careers page more useful by adding links to the six webinars the Committee has sponsored to date as well as to Blog of the APA posts that are relevant to non-academic careers.

We continue working toward the Committee’s goal of publishing relevant blog posts for the Blog of the APA. Several Committee members have been interviewed by the Blog, and several other Committee members have prepared blog posts for submission.

2. Committee Goals, 2022-2023
The Committee plans to organize at least two webinars each academic year on a “standing” basis. One, presented in March of each year, will address questions relating to launching a non-academic career. The other, which generally will be presented in late summer, will address what graduate faculty can do to support non-academic careers. (In this connection, our most recent webinar, “Creating a Student-Centered PhD Program—Support for Diverse Career Paths,” was presented September 1, 2022.)

In addition, the Committee plans to update the April 2021 version of *Beyond the Academy*. The update will include more current data about doctoral awards in the US, links to placement information recently published by APDA (Academic Philosophy Data & Analysis), and various other revisions and stylistic edits.