About SACSA

The Southern Association for College Student Affairs (SACSA) is an independent, regional, generalist association designed for the professional development of practitioners, educators, and students engaged in the student affairs profession. SACSA was founded in 1949 by a small group of student personnel professionals who desired to have an annual exchange of ideas, programs, and policies regarding college students. The SACSA Region is comprised of fifteen southern states (Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia) and the District of Columbia.

Vision Statement:

The Southern Association for College Student Affairs is committed to being the preeminent generalist organization for practitioners, educators, and students engaged in the student affairs profession.

Mission Statement:

The mission of the Southern Association for College Student Affairs is to advance:

- Opportunities for professional development;
- Scholarship, research, and ethical practice; and
- Understanding of issues impacting students and the student affairs profession, while fostering our core values of inclusiveness, professionalism, and collegiality.

Core Values:

The core values below represent the ideals on which the Southern Association for College Student Affairs was built and from which it continues to prosper. The Core Values of Inclusiveness, Professionalism, and Collegiality shall permeate all governance, decisions, operations and activities of the association.

- **Inclusiveness**: Diversity, History, Affordability, Accessibility, Involvement
- **Professionalism**: Research, Scholarship, Practice, Expertise, Professional Development, Integrity, Learning
- **Collegiality**: Mentoring, Collaboration, Regional Commitment, Volunteerism, Fellowship, Traditions, Networking
Letter from the President

It has been quite an honor to serve as your President over this past year. Our conference theme, New Directions: A Climate of Change, occurred at a time where the direction of society and our nation, is at a critical point in history. We, as higher education professionals, are constantly exposed to an environment of free thinking, exploration, and discussion. We are provided opportunities to come together and express our thoughts, feelings, and selves in a world where to do so is controversial; to advocate is adversarial; and to be “different” is antagonistic. We are greater than that; we are greater than societal “norms.” This conference is dedicated to you, our members, who strive for nothing more than to make your institution a better place for all students, staff, and faculty.

Shawnboda Mead, the conference team, and all of the volunteers have done an outstanding job creating a conference that helped us learn to be a better professional. There are a lot of hours spent coordinating a conference and I cannot thank them enough for doing such an amazing job at creating an ideology of change.

Part of this ideology of social and professional change is social innovation. Identifying social injustices in society and developing innovative and meaningful programs and partnerships to cause change is the underlying principle for our conference this past year. This was not an easy task, and we dedicated part of the conference to helping our members learn about social innovation.

I would like to conclude by thanking all of our members who make SACSA their professional home, and those that attend our conferences. Our members are who make this organization strong, and we are deeply indebted to the commitment of our members who contribute their time through presentations, leadership, and overall dedication to our Core Values.

Matt Varga, Ph.D.
2016 – 2017 SACSA President
Associate Professor
University of West Georgia
Welcome to Chattanooga

Thank you for joining us for the 2017 SACSA with NASPA Region III Conference. On behalf of the conference committee, welcome to Chattanooga (Choo...Choo)! An amazing team of individuals have worked over the past year to develop a conference that encourages professional growth, addresses important social issues, and help us think critically about the future of our profession.

Our conference theme, New Directions: A Climate of Change, and focus on social innovation will allow us to explore and respond to many of the challenges we face on our campuses. The conference will feature three dynamic keynote speakers, symposiums and seminars, and over 100 concurrent sessions that will offer diverse learning experiences. Beginning with our visit to the Tennessee Aquarium for the opening reception and ending with SACSA After Hours, you’ll have countless networking opportunities throughout the conference.

Over the next few days, I’m confident you will be exposed to new ideas and insights that will inspire you for new directions in higher education. From undergraduates and graduate students to senior-level officers and faculty, you’ll find there’s something for everyone! As you take full advantage of all the conference has to offer, I hope you’ll return home with a renewed energy to create lasting change on your campus and beyond.

I am indebted to Matt Varga for this incredible opportunity to serve as conference chair and grateful for our conference committee, executive council, sponsors, presenters, volunteers, and you for making this conference possible.

Shawnboda Mead
2016-2017 SACSA Conference Chair
Director, Center for Inclusion & Cross Cultural Engagement
The University of Mississippi
Goal 1 – Create a New Strategic Plan

2017 – 2020 Strategic Plan

With the assistance of Dr. Deb Kladivko, SACSA has established and approved a new 3-year strategic plan. Through countless meetings, feedback, and review, we as an organization plan to focus on the following three priorities:

1. Recruitment, engagement, and retention of members
2. Financial stability and stewardship
3. Further strengthen SACSA’s ability to prepare professionals for the future of higher education

Each individual goal has specific priorities that the organization will emphasize over the next three years. The overall focus is for SACSA to remain relevant and responsible to our members. You can find the Strategic Plan on our website.

Goal 2 – Social Innovation

Integrate Social Innovation into the Annual Conference

Social Innovation is a new way to address socially unjust issues affecting society. With the help of the Social Innovation Task force led by Ambra Hiott and supported by Lisa Gring-Pemble, and Apryl Jackson, we developed a toolkit for our members’ reference that outlines various Social Innovation resources. This toolkit is meant to serve as a starting point for student affairs practitioners to expand their knowledge and understanding of social innovation through reviewing case studies and examples from institutions engaged in social innovation work and accessing resources and recommendations for practice well beyond time spent at the 2017 SACSA Annual Conference with NASPA Region III.

To further support this goal, we had speakers, site visits, and programs all dedicated to social innovation. It was our hope conference attendees left the conference with a stronger understanding of what it means to be socially innovative on your campus.
Goal 3 – Continuity Plan

Clarifying roles and responsibility by updating SACSA’s infrastructure

In our efforts to improve our continuity between leadership changes, we have invested financially into the organization by upgrading our systems, improving our email communications, and migrating all files over to Google subsequently becoming a google organization. This transition will allow us to store our files in a place to help with continuity and allow for greater collaboration. We have also developed a new template for committee chairs to report on their efforts over the past year and provide areas of growth as it relates to their position, which will be shared with the incoming executive council and committee chair. These measures have strengthened our ability to transition from year-to-year.

Goal 4 – SACSA Rebranding

Develop a new SACSA brand

As most of you have probably seen by now with the gifts in your registration packet, but we have begun the rebranding SACSA. With the help of Aly Moffit and Matt Clifford, we have designed a new more contemporary SACSA logo.

SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION FOR COLLEGE STUDENT AFFAIRS

Along with a new logo comes a new website. A lot of work went into this rebranding effort and I want to personally thank Aly Moffit and Matt Clifford along with the rest of the Marketing and Communications team.
2016 Accomplishments

**Non-Discrimination Statement**

SACSA’s history is grounded in inclusivity and acceptance, which begs the question “why has SACSA gone so long without a formal non-discrimination policy?” This year, we fulfilled that gap and created a policy to help ensure we are providing the best for our members.

**Statement on Inclusion:**

SACSA recognizes and is committed to our core value of inclusiveness. SACSA values and supports the diversity of all of our members. SACSA is committed to the development and implementation of programs and resources that promote our commitment to inclusiveness.

SACSA does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, economic status, gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, national origin, veterans status, age, ability, ethnic background in any of our volunteer activities, programs, policies and procedures;

SACSA will actively promote diversity and inclusion in all of our programs and services.

**Statement on Conference Locations:**

In support of SACSA Core Value to Inclusiveness, SACSA will make every effort to select conference cities, counties, and locations that have comprehensive non-discrimination policies providing protection for all attendees. Recognizing that our members are located in many states, we also believe it is important to support our colleagues in all states.

In cases where cities do not have comprehensive non-discrimination policies, or allows for exclusion of any person(s) the conference planning team must ensure the following practices are in place:

- All venues including convention centers, hotel space, off site excursions, and any other space which hosts SACSA events, must have established non-discrimination policies.
- Conference planners and volunteers must plan, promote and implement educational programs focused on inclusion and best practices.
- Conference materials must include the nondiscrimination policies for all venues.
Presidential Scholar

SACSA is also proud to announce that we were able to create a new position to support the organization and the President. As a faculty member, it was important to me that we are able to provide professional development opportunities for graduate students that is also mutually beneficial to the organization. Thus, we created the Presidential Scholar Internship and I am pleased to announce that Jheri Wills from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville was selected as the first to receive that honor.

SACSA – NASPA Region III MOU

SACSA and NASPA Region III have a long history of partnership and collaboration, which we recently renewed. We co-sponsor the Mid-Managers Institute and the New Professionals Institute in addition to supporting each other throughout the year. Over the past two years, Beau Seagraves and Anthony DeSantis lead a taskforce to review the partnership between SACSA and NASPA Region III. This year, we were able to conclude that work and renewed and strengthened our long time partnership between the two organizations.

SACSA Foundation

The SACSA Foundation is an independent 501(c)(3) entity established to support the mission and initiatives of the Association. One of the Foundation’s primary goals is to cultivate donations to strengthen the organization’s financial viability and assist the Association in achieving its goals of offering high quality professional development to its members. The money raised through the foundation is intended to help the Association to accomplish its goals of professional development, research, and services to the members. The Association also sponsors some grants and other awards.

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HOBSONS  presence
HANBURY
2018 SACSA Annual Conference with NASPA Region III

Meet Us at the BEACH!

Building ways to Educate, Advocate, Cultivate, and Heighten our purpose in Student Affairs.

November 3-5, 2018
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