

N4ACORNER



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Unity in Action...One Goal, One Mission, One Vision

Over the course of the past two years, NCAA leadership, N4A members and NCAA student-athlete development and life skills members have collaborated to fully unify and advance the N4A organization to continue to make a lasting impact on the academic success, integrity, personal and professional development of our student-athletes. The 2017 N4A National Convention will be our inaugural Convention truly combining and unifying both groups to come together to address the academic and holistic developmental needs of the student-athlete as well as to grow personally and professionally in our industry.

This year's Convention is on track to be incredibly impactful. We take great pride in reviewing all feedback each year to continue to improve the overall experience at the National Convention. We

would like you to note a few enhancements for this year's Convention:

- We have added a new workshop track for Student-Athlete Well-Being and Mental Health. We will continue to have a Student-Athlete Development track as well.
- We have added a new Professional Excellence Award for mid-level professionals in our industry to be presented at the Awards Luncheon.
- We have added a second opportunity to attend committee meetings for those who participate in more than one committee or are interested in learning about additional opportunities to get involved with committee work.
- We continue to brainstorm ways to improve our Research Showcase and will have some changes to this going forward to ensure that we are supporting and sharing relevant research related to our industry.

We are in the process of finalizing our keynote speakers and general session speakers but plan to have four dynamic presentations on topics including personal development for professionals, diversity & inclusion, unification

and other relevant topics. We strongly encourage you to get more involved with our phenomenal committees who are doing great work on behalf of our organization. It is a wonderful way to network with other colleagues, create dynamic partnerships, collaborate and grow professionally. We had 95 workshop proposals submitted this year, which is a new record! Thank you to everyone who took the time and energy to submit.

Lastly, in January, our N4A Board of Directors met in Nashville, Tennessee in conjunction with the NCAA Convention and had great discussion in the areas of budget review, looking at the future of the association, division and region reports, Convention planning, academic integrity assessment, and current council and autonomy legislation. Leadership among the Board of Directors is incredibly strong and it continues to be an exciting time for our organization on a national scale. I am incredibly blessed to have the opportunity to learn from some of the exceptionally talented and experienced individuals that have served this organization both on the Board and as Past Presidents and truly appreciate the opportunity to serve the organization as the National Convention planner.

NAACORNER



Rob Heuer

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Spring has sprung, and that means it is time to register for the 2017 NAAC Convention (#NAAC17) in Orlando, Florida from June 10-12! Registration is open now and the NAAC Convention Committee is finalizing what promises to be another incredible year of programming to provide our professionals.

2016 was another record year for the NAAC Convention. We shattered the organization's Convention attendance record by convening with 471 compliance administrators in Dallas, Texas. Thank you to all who helped us make history!

The 2017 Convention is right around the corner, and I'm excited to invite you to attend this year's event. The agenda is packed full of the collaboration opportunities Convention attendees have come to expect. One of the biggest things we learned from last year's Convention was that our professionals thirst for face-to-face collaboration, as indicated by

our roundtable sessions that were bursting at the seams with eager compliance administrators. We are back

this year with even more great roundtable topics and plans to better accommodate the incredible demand we experienced last year. The sessions will be purposeful and interactive to allow for meaningful dialogue amongst compliance professionals by creating an environment where attendees are able to gravitate towards their peers and find colleagues working through similar problems on their respective campuses.

Speaking of roundtables, another strategy we are continuing to employ this year is to partner breakout sessions with a roundtable offering. For example, one of the biggest topics within Division I this year is the concept of student-athlete time commitments. As a response, we are including a breakout session and a roundtable session on time commitments meant to complement each other. We believe there is value in hearing about this topic in a breakout session; however, there is also great value in being able to sit down with peers in a roundtable format to try and brainstorm ways this concept will be implemented on our campuses. On a topic such as this, I think it is crucial for professionals to align themselves with colleagues from across the country who share commonalities with the institution they represent. This not only allows them

to return to their respective campuses with ideas heading into the coming academic year, but hopefully also the name and contact information of someone they may call as a sounding board during implementation.

In addition to great peer-to-peer collaboration, this year's Convention will feature opportunities for attendees to voice opinions on national hot topics and trends, such as the growing number of sport-specific staff members we are seeing nationally. Our hope is that, through this feedback collection session, the NAAC membership may provide a meaningful list of concerns to administrators and the National Office. Providing this feedback and aiming to capture the voice of the membership is yet another way our organization can further assert its presence on the national landscape as a key player in issues that are shaping intercollegiate athletics.

We are incredibly excited to spend these days in June with you! Register for #NAAC17 today!