Stories of Workplace Engagement and Professional Development

Each month we showcase a member of Student Affairs who demonstrates a high level of engagement in their job and a commitment to professional development. This month we showcase TWO new employees in residence life: Amanda Virag and Michael Courson, both new area coordinators. Click here to hear Dan Bureau’s short interview with the two of them to learn about how they have come to learn about how to do their work well here at the U of M and how they incorporate professional development.

Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month in Memphis and Jackson!

September 16
Hispanic Heritage Month Dinner
Speaker: Jimmy Cabrera
6:00-8:00 P.M
University Center Ballroom

October 2
Hispanic Bake Sale
10:00-12:00 P.M
1st Floor University Center


“Thirteen years of research and practice have uncovered critical insights about mid-level donors:
Who are they? How should we communicate with them? How do we secure a gift? We’re about to share with you our discoveries on mid-level donors, their importance in future major gifts, and the revolutionary approach that is proven to produce unprecedented results”

Read this paper from Pursuant, a leading fundraising company.

ACPA/NASPA Professional Competencies Rubrics

Want to see how you’re doing in terms of accomplishing our profession’s core competencies and where you can improve? Try out these rubrics to gauge your level across distinct aspects of the 10 competencies.

Ted Ideas worth spreading

Have you seen a Ted Talk? If not, then get out of your cave and explore! These short videos of speeches range in topic and can be very applicable to student affairs work. This month we highlight two in particular:

Student affairs folks need to better tell our story. Here’s a talk on clues to a great story.

In this difficult economic environment, it can be challenging to stay happy at work. It’s even more important than ever to develop approaches to maintaining happiness. Check out this talk to learn how.

Thanks to Stephanie Blaisdell for sharing this video with us at our student development retreat.

Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month in Memphis and Jackson!

September 16
Hispanic Bake Sale
12-1 P.M
Student Union, Hamilton Room

September 27
Movie in the HPAC-Crash
7:00 P.M

October 2
Fiesta Day in the cafeteria w/Mariachi Band
Make Piñatas-Date TBD
Supplement your learning by attending these half-hour webinars, hosted by Educational Benchmarking each month. They are at noon each day. **We will host all in the Fountain View Room.** The titles are hyperlinked so that you can view the description. **You do not need to register.** Just show up with your lunch and ready to learn. We’ll hang for a half hour after in case people want to talk more about the content.

October 8th: **Who Should Use What When?: Thinking About How Various Levels Can Use Data**
November 5th: **Beyond the First Year: Majors, Connections and More**
December 3: **Beyond the Classroom: Peers, Activities, Leadership**
January 24th: **How Do I Know What’s Important: Making Sense of Survey Data**

---

### Student Affairs & Social Media/Technology Corner

**Conveying Data in New Ways through Infographics**

An important final step of any assessment process is to use data. By conveying data to our publics, they become confident in the work that we do. Campus Labs has recently authored a blog on one way to convey data – through Infographics. The authors states “There a number of benefits to incorporating infographics or other visuals in your assessment sharing plan. These images are appealing to a wide audience; they attract the eye; spread your results beyond a limited group; and can help present complex information quickly and clearly”. Check out the story [here](#).

---

### Developing Your Individualized Professional Development Plan!

We have launched the individualized professional development plan as a division wide initiative! A [tutorial](#) on how to use the plan and the [template](#) are now available for your review. The template encourages the use of the ACPA and NASPA Professional Competency Areas for Student Affairs. We recommend reviewing this document as you begin developing your plan!

---

### Increasing Competence and Confidence: A Blog Dedicated to Student Affairs Professional Development

Recent postings include effective practices for good work in student affairs, how to avoid bad assessment, and why strategic plans are inclined to fail.

---

**Results from the Student Affairs Influence on Retention Study: Findings of Interest**

In fall 2012, two Vanderbilt doctoral students helped the U of M Division of Student Affairs to answer what should be a simple question: How do students perceive involvement in student affairs programs and services to influence retention? Each month we’ll showcase one finding from this mixed methods study in which almost 200 students replied to a survey and over 10 student affairs professionals and 20 students participated in interviews. This month’s highlighted finding is:

**University of Memphis GPA and involvement in student affairs programming, demonstrated statistically significant relationships with intent to re-enroll.**

---

**Assessment Corner**

As we have more and more need to document the way that our programs influence student success and learning, we need to find easier ways to conduct assessment. Boston College recently developed a resource on “quick assessments”. Check out [this resource](#) and see what you might implement.

---

**Research in Brief**

We’re always evolving as student affairs practitioners. The ACPA/NASPA Professional Competencies can guide our work. Recent research has also looked at characteristics important to professional practice in student affairs administration. [Enjoy this recent article](#) from the Journal of Student Affairs Research and Practice that addresses what 17 years of literature says about needed student affairs competencies.

---

**Raffle Opportunity!**

In 50 words or less, what was your favorite section of this month’s newsletter. Share your thoughts [here](#) and anyone completing the form by September 28th will be in a raffle to receive a $10 gift card to a store/restaurant of their choice. Anyone in student affairs at the University of Memphis can win!