

Name Marshall Greenleaf

Institution University of Massachusetts
Lowell

Job Title Director of Student and
Family Support Services

Please write a statement (written by the nominee or applicant), describing why he or she will be a good member of the AHEPPP Board of Directors. Please include particular skills that will suit this role and the ways in which the candidate's leadership will contribute to AHEPPP's mission, programs and initiatives. Limit to 500 words.

Hello AHEPPP Members!

When planning to write this statement, I had blocked off a chunk of time in my calendar to dedicate to writing. Then, as things often go in higher education, an email popped up with the subject "Help for a Desperate Mom." The email was from the parent of an incoming student who was feeling anxiety about the approaching school year and who felt behind in getting their student ready for the upcoming semester (which at the time of writing this was only two days away). I wrote back to the mom and then took some time to reflect on the work that we do and the profound impact that engaging with parents and families can have.

I also thought about my institution's journey in developing a Family Programs office and how just several years ago we wouldn't have been here to help that mom. A constant player in this journey was AHEPPP. Where we are at today would not have been possible without the critical resources, knowledge, opportunities for engagement, and networking that the organization provides. I am excited about the opportunity to help lead, give back, and continue to further the important work that AHEPPP accomplishes, and this is why I am interested in joining the Board of Directors.

In thinking about my candidacy for the board, I hope that you get a sense of my background and experience from my resume. Additionally, I want to share some highlights of my experience that I feel would contribute to AHEPPP's mission and values:

- **Equity, Inclusion, & Belonging:** I have consistently challenged myself to bring an intersectional, inclusive lens to the work that we do. I currently teach "Diversity in Higher Education" in UML's Higher Education master's program, facilitate diversity workshops on inclusive communication and unconscious bias, coordinate an Intergroup Dialogue program based on race and ethnicity, and developed an LGBTQ+ resource program. I am passionate about advancing equity, inclusion, and belonging goals with a focus on populations that have been historically excluded in higher education.
- **Collaboration:** I believe that the true impact of AHEPPP lies with the network of professionals that come together to advance the work of the organization and the field of family engagement. I have been able to collaborate on AHEPPP initiatives, including serving for two years on the National Conference Planning Committee, serving as the Region 1 Chair, participating in Virtual Summits as a discussion leader, and contributing a chapter to an upcoming AHEPPP publication. Bringing together the ideas, experiences, and the energy of members is what makes AHEPPP a dynamic organization, and I would love to bring my skills in connecting and collaborating with people to a role on the board.

I hope that this statement has given you a better sense of who I am and why I want to be in this AHEPPP leadership role. I'd also love to connect with colleagues and invite you to reach out and add me on LinkedIn.

Best,

Marshall Greenleaf