

**Name** Whitney White

**Institution** University of Cincinnati

**Job Title** Director of Parent & Family Programs

**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.**

Dear AHEPPP Colleagues and Friends:

I respectfully submit my application for the AHEPPP Board of Directors. As a 6+ year member, I am deeply aware of AHEPPP's impact on its members and the field of parent and family programming. I started my career working with families in 2008 at UC Santa Barbara. After a 5-year shift to student-facing roles, I returned to family engagement at Johns Hopkins in 2016 before moving to the University of Cincinnati (UC). While I love working with students, supporting student success via their families and supporters is my passion and the reason I jumped on the opportunity when presented. When I returned to the field in 2016, I learned about AHEPPP and I haven't turned back!

Over the past 6+ years, I have served AHEPPP in a variety of roles, including Region 5 Chair, 2019 National Conference Committee member, conference presenter, program reviewer, award reviewer, College Ready podcast guest, mentor, and mentee. Through these opportunities, I have grown individually, improved programming at my own institutions, developed meaningful relationships with peers across the country, and hopefully, made a positive impact on the experiences of others, as well. As a current Board of Directors member stated when they reached out to me about this role, this seems to be the logical next step! I am excited to take this next step in my AHEPPP involvement and to work with my fellow Board of Directors members to serve the association.

I currently serve as Director of Parent & Family Programs and Student Affairs Marketing & Communications at UC. I believe my split role gives me unique insight into the experience of our members who balance multiple areas of responsibility and the challenges we face with internal and external communications as parent and family professionals. Additionally, I can use my experience working with families at multiple different types of colleges and universities (e.g. public, private, small, large) to support members from our many diverse institutions. In summer 2022, I began the journey toward an Ed.D. in Urban Educational Leadership at UC. I am looking forward to pursuing new knowledge and research that advances our understanding of best practices in providing more inclusive support and engagement for the diverse families our institutions serve.

As part of AHEPPP's Board of Directors, I look forward to deepening my contributions to an organization and profession so dear to me professionally and personally. AHEPPP gives me so much and I am committed to paying that forward, prioritizing AHEPPP's values and mission, and leading us toward a future guided by innovation, equity and inclusion, and collaboration to best serve the organization, its members, and ultimately, the families and students at our home institutions.

I am highly committed to AHEPPP, the Board of Directors, and the members of our small, but mighty and impactful organization. Thank you so much for your consideration for this important role. If there is any additional information I can provide, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at whitney.white@uc.edu.