

Name Sarah Joslyn

Institution Bowling Green State University

Job Title Director, Orientation and Transitions

Please write a statement describing why you 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.

When I think back to my first AHEPPP conference in 2018, I remember being nervous and unsure. I felt like the new kid, and even though I've been in higher education professionally since 2014 and was starting the conference with the "New to Parent and Family Programs" institute, I still felt like everybody else knew more than I did about what it meant to work with families. As I sat through the sessions that day, I received help, support, and reassurance from my new colleagues and members of the Board of Directors. I spent the rest of the conference feeling like the Board members were basically parent and family celebrities and that they had the answers to every question I could possibly have.

Shortly after attending that first conference, I decided to get more involved within AHEPPP and applied to be on the conference planning committee. That decision led to serving on the conference committee for four years – three as an Awards Co-Chair and most recently, one as a Programming Co-Chair. These opportunities allowed me the chance to connect both personally and professionally with other colleagues and the Board. I quickly realized that though I still considered many on the Board to be celebrities, they were ultimately just professionals like me who cared deeply for the AHEPPP organization and the work of our field.

As I look to my future with AHEPPP, I would appreciate the opportunity to give back to AHEPPP in the way that the Board and the organization gave to me. I have served in the field of parent and family programs directly and have been an AHEPPP member since 2018 and though my role within the field has continued to evolve, I have continued to keep families and supporters at the forefront of my work. When I think about why I would make a good member of the AHEPPP Board of Directors, I think about what the Board has and continues to give to me – advice and perspectives based on my experiences from my work at my own institutions, answers to your questions, connections to other professionals who can best support your work, a willingness to continue to learn and grow and both a person and a professional, and deep care for AHEPPP and the work that each of us do on our campuses and as a collective. Considering my professional experiences in Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, and the roles that I have taken on specifically within residence life, orientation, transition, and retention, and parent and family programs, I bring skills in organization and interpersonal communication, the ability to work in a fast-paced, team-oriented environment, a positive and collaborative attitude, and a strong ability to balance multiple priorities.

As an organization, AHEPPP has given me a lot. I am grateful for the people and programs that have affirmed and supported me throughout the past five years and I am hopeful for the opportunity to give back to the AHEPPP family in this way.