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[tennacada.utk.edu](http://tennacada.utk.edu)

## President's Corner

Greetings TennACADA!

I hope the spring semester is off to a great start for everyone.

I want to begin by thanking those who came out to the NACADA webinar on January 29<sup>th</sup> concerning *Strategies for Student Success*. I hope you all found it informative and thought provoking. Special thanks to Dr. Darling for providing us with the opportunity.

Our February event is the Tennessee State Drive-in which focuses on *Improving Advising Services for Transfer Students*. There is still time to register if you are interested in joining us. We will have advisors from community colleges and 4-year institutions from across the state, and it will be a great chance to develop new relationships and strengthen existing ones with our colleagues. Additional information can be found on the next page of this newsletter.

On March 25<sup>th</sup>, Alison Connor from the Registrar's Office will be joining us to discuss uTrack and transfer students. As Fall 2015 marks the University's first semester tracking transfer students, we feel this event is very timely.

The Executive Committee has been hard at work developing advising awards for our community, and we are very excited to invite you all to our first ever Advising Awards Ceremony! We believe that our advising community does an extraordinary job serving our students, and we felt this was a great opportunity for us to celebrate our accomplishments together. More information is in the box below.

Finally, please consider nominating yourself or a colleague for a TennACADA officer position. You will be receiving information regarding elections in early March.

Hope to see you all at our events this semester!

Shanna

Shanna Pendergrast  
President, TennACADA  
2014-2015



## TennACADA's First Annual Advising Awards Ceremony

**Date:** April 27, 2015

**Time:** 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM

**Location:** Stokely Hospitality Suite, Haslam Business Building, 5th Floor



Please join us for TennACADA's first annual awards banquet! Nomination forms and full award descriptions will be posted on the TennACADA Website by February 16th, so please make sure to recognize deserving candidates. The main awards will include:

- *Outstanding New Advisor*
- *Advising Champion*
- *Innovative Advising*
- *Friend to the Community*

We will also be awarding some fun advising superlatives (such as Best Presenter of General Education Curriculum, Best Energy During the Last Orientation Session, and several others).

## NACADA Tennessee Drive-In Conference

### NACADA State Conference

*Pathways to Success:  
Improving Advising Services  
for Transfer Students*


Topics could include assisting students interested in competitive programs, helping students find a school that is the best fit, working with transfer equivalency problems, improving the Pathways, and preparing for the Tennessee Promise. The conference will feature break-out sessions (including presentations, roundtable discussions, and panel discussions).

**When:** February 27, 2015  
from 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM


**Where:** Hilton Downtown,  
Knoxville

**Who can attend:** Any NACADA member in the state of Tennessee. Non-member faculty and staff at Tennessee colleges and universities who have a stake in academic advising are also welcome.

This is an official NACADA event. Faculty and staff interested in getting involved with NACADA will have an opportunity to discuss and learn more. To register, please go to the following link: <http://artsci.utk.edu/advising/pathways-to-success/>




NACADA  
**Pathways for Success:**  
*Improving Advising Services  
for Transfer Students*  
February 27, 2015



TENNESSEE TRANSFER  
**PATHWAY**

Sponsored by



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
TENNESSEE  
KNOXVILLE

and TennACADA

## Meet the UT Advising Community: Ashleigh Powers

*Ashleigh Powers has served as the Coordinator of Advising for the Psychology major since January 2013.*



### **How did you get involved with academic advising?**

Prior to coming to UT, I was on faculty at a small college in Mississippi. Academic advising was only one part of my job there, but it was the part I loved most. When we moved to Tennessee in 2013, I jumped at the chance to work full time in academic advising at UT!

### **What do you like most about working with students in the College of Arts & Sciences?**

I love the opportunity to work with students to craft degree plans that help them meet their life goals. I've always loved puzzles, and putting together a good degree plan feels a lot like working one to me. I also really enjoy helping students see all the possibilities a liberal arts degree can offer them. Their major is rock solid, but it's only one piece of their degree, and there's so much more they can bring to the table. It's great when students recognize that. I also love the interconnectedness of our

job. I've formed great relationships with faculty and a lot of the support offices on campus. I'm a team player, and I love being a part of such a tight network of student resources.

### **What qualities and characteristics do you think are important for an academic advisor to be successful?**

I think active listening skills are paramount. That's kind of clichéd, I know. We all value listening to our students. What I'm always trying to get better at is the kind of listening that is responsive, that shows students that their ideas have real uptake. I try to mirror back as much of what I'm hearing as I can when we're talking, and of course, reflect those things in my notes. I think compassion and a healthy sense of humor are also really important qualities to bring to advising. No two days are ever the same, and students bring us a lot of strange situations. There can sometimes be a lot of stress for the student and for us as advisors. It's important for me to connect to the emotional elements of the job—to be able to empathize when the situation calls for it, and also to recognize the lighter side of the appointment when that's most useful.

### **Outside of work, what hobbies or interests do you have?**

I like to spend time at home with my family and friends. As long as people visited me, I would probably be perfectly happy as a hermit. Game night with friends is my idea of a great time. My son, Gregory, is the most adorable almost-five-year-old on the planet, and I devote a lot of my energy to him. He's playing baseball this spring, and I'm looking forward to that. I sing soprano in the church choir. I'm also a process knitter (I don't really care what I'm making; I just have to have something to do with my hands at all times).

***We hope you are having a great spring semester!***

*~ Shanna, Nayasha, Luke, and Colette*