

PERSONAL STATEMENT

Fatmata Koroma for Delegate

As the daughter of two immigrants to the U.S. from Guinea, West Africa, I learned the value and privilege of education at a young age. After realizing the immeasurable benefits of higher education, I have been driven to unlock the potential in today's young people. Understanding that the process can be daunting and overwhelming, I have committed to working with individual students and collaborating with high school counselors to empower students as they journey through this process.

I have been the Enrollment Services Manager and the D.C., Maryland and Virginia Regional Recruiter at the University of Pittsburgh for four years. Beyond recruiting the best candidates for my alma mater, I have found that my fulfillment comes from building and strengthening the college going culture in my communities. I have provided support to numerous high schools and community-based organizations (CBOs); serving on panels, facilitating "Finding the Best Fit College" workshops throughout the year, and participating in mock admissions committee programs. I have also made sincere efforts to work with first generation students and AVID programs, in an effort to address college access and affordability issues in underrepresented and underserved populations. I believe all students deserve to have the tools to find the next best step beyond high school.

Getting to meet the passionate stewards of the counseling profession has made my work all the more rewarding, I'm always excited to learn new and better ways to serve the next generation. I've been an active participant in regional organizations like PCACAC, Mid-Atlantic Regional Counselor Association (MARCA), and VACRAO. After attending the PCACAC Summer Institute in 2016, I was energized to deepen my service to PCACAC because of the wealth of knowledge I gained and the friendships I made. On the Current Trends and Future Issues Committee, discuss what's coming next in our profession, and grapple with concerns facing our students and counselors based on current events. I hope to address some of these issues on the national NACAC platform, representing the interests of PCACAC members. I was thrilled to participate in the first PCACAC Pre-Conference Equity Collaborative Workshop in 2017 as a co-presenter for the "Being Effective Allies" session. I enjoyed presenting at the 2018 PCACAC conference, and I look forward to sharing best practices for hosting an informative and engaging information session during the 2019 PCACAC conference.

While some may recognize me for my blue and gold ensembles, or upbeat personality, I am ready to introduce myself to the entire PCACAC community as the charismatic, ambitious and dedicated representative for all. As a delegate for PCACAC, I intend to remain a student of the profession, learning from the outstanding leaders and members within PCACAC. By being an active listener, I will endeavor to turn constructive conversations into actionable and implementable steps to move us forward. I hope to provide influence by representing PCACAC at the NACAC; build relationships throughout PCACAC; and think strategically about how to address the concerns of PCACAC members.