

## **PERSONAL STATEMENT**

### **Rebekah LaPlante for President-Elect**

I am excited about the opportunity to be considered as President-Elect for PCACAC. I believe my experiences will allow me to make a positive contribution through this position.

Working in college admissions at two public institutions for the last 18 years has afforded me the opportunity to assist thousands of prospective students and their families as they navigate the college admissions process. As a first-generation college student, I learned many years ago the valuable and influential role the high school counselor plays in a student's college search and I am keenly aware of the impact they can have. I believe relationships are essential to the work we do in college admissions.

As a member of the senior leadership at Radford University and Virginia Tech I have worked collaboratively to meet enrollment targets and goals while maintaining a strong awareness of the many moving pieces that impact these final numbers. I have served as a mentor and supervisor to admissions staff members that engage in every element of the admissions process. I believe creating an environment that allows for collaboration and teamwork is invaluable to the success of an admissions team and even more important to an organization like PCACAC. I pride myself in being an empathetic and supportive supervisor and colleague and have always strived to find ways to show support and encouragement to others.

I attended my first PCACAC conference in 2003 and soon after assisted with conference planning with my Director at the time, as he was moving into the presidential cycle. Seeing everything behind the scenes that goes into a conference was a little daunting, but I met many dedicated individuals that were passionate about establishing these "relationships across the desk" and truly believed in the work that was being done to make us all better at what we do. As I have progressed in this profession, I have been an active member of our professional development committee and have served as the chair of PD and an assembly delegate for the last three years. I am currently in the role of Interim Secretary. The opportunity to be a member of our Executive Council since last September has been a great learning experience as well. I've assisted with many Summer Institutes and led many sessions. I've helped select sessions and participated in site visits for future conferences. I have worked with AV and prepared playlists for many of our functions; I'm one of the first people to be out on the dance floor too.

Most importantly, you may have seen me trying to support my colleagues and attempting to find ways to spread positive vibes. We are all in this together and I genuinely believe that when we are open to learning from each other is when we do our best work! I would be honored and humbled to serve this organization at the next level and believe that I can continue to learn from each of you along the way.