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Washington School Counselor Association

Graduate Student Newsletter • Fall 2018

Hello and Happy Fall!

My name is Phaedra Baldwin and I am the Graduate Student Representative for WSCA. I am in my final year at City University, and am interning at Mountain View High School in Vancouver, WA (*Go Thunder!*).

WSCA was founded in 1965 and serves more than 1100 members across the state including professional school counselors, counselor educators, graduate students, and retired school counselors. The association is committed to professional development and in 2018 nearly 970 people attended the annual conference in Seattle.

I would strongly encourage you to join and become a member of WSCA. Membership includes the following benefits:

- WSCA newsletters
- Networking opportunities
- Advocacy at federal and state levels for professional school counselors
- Reduced cost for state, regional and district professional development conducted by WSCA
- Discounted rates on ASCA published materials
- Comprehensive website
- Discount membership rate for students seeking ESA: School Counselor certification
- Leadership opportunities

Renew/sign up for WSCA membership now!

**The regular graduate student membership rate is \$25/yr.
Join by 11/30/2018 with code *19student* and pay only \$12.50.**

www.wa-schoolcounselor.org



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Washington State Transitions to CACREP Accreditation

What is CACREP?

The Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) was established in 1981 to provide leadership in accreditation of school counseling programs. Over the years CACREP has evolved to meet the needs of a growing field by ensuring that graduate programs are rigorous, comprehensive, and provide the professional education required for today's school counselors. This is especially important in an era where diploma mills attempt to create graduate programs with substandard academic study.

In 2017, the Washington State Professional Educator Standards Board (PESB) voted to require all school counselor programs in Washington to be held to CACREP standards. Although every program is already fully accredited by different agencies, PESB wanted to create state-wide uniformity in training. For graduate school programs, becoming CACREP accredited primarily involves having a higher ratio of instructors with PhDs, clock hours in mental health facilities as well as school counselor settings, and a stronger emphasis on coursework in mental health. Because of these requirements, CACREP accredited programs require 60 credit hours and 600 internship hours to complete. For graduate students, the benefits of attending a CACREP accredited program include more comprehensive training to become a school counselor, coursework to better prepare for a

potential PhD or LCSW, and an increased ability to compete for jobs outside the state.

Of the eight school counseling programs in Washington state, five are currently CACREP accredited (Eastern Washington University, Gonzaga University, Seattle Pacific University, Seattle University, and Western Washington University). The other three (City University, University of Puget Sound, Whitworth University) are in the process of transitioning from their current accreditation to the new standards.

What does this mean for you?

As a current graduate student, these changes will not affect you. If your program is already accredited by CACREP, nothing will change. If your program is in the process of transitioning, the changes should not affect your cohort. Either way, the requirements to obtain an ESA certification will not change. Going forward, however, the state mandate will ensure all K-12 school counselors receive the quality training needed by today's schools, which ultimately will better benefit our youth.

Volunteer Cohort Liaisons Wanted

WSCA is looking for a volunteer from every graduate school cohort to be a communication liaison. This person will facilitate communication between their cohort and WSCA and partner with the WSCA Graduate Student Representative to ensure graduate student needs are being heard. This is a great opportunity to explore a leadership role and learn more about WSCA!

If you are interested or have questions, please contact Phaedra Baldwin at phaedrabadwinwsca@gmail.com.

Save the Date!

2019 WSCA Annual Conference

“Building Bridges, Leading the Way to Student Success”

Where: Doubletree Hotel, 18740 International Blvd, Seattle, WA 98373

When: February 27th through March 1st, 2019

Student volunteers receive admission discount · Sign up to present on a topic!

