



The Advising Success Network Newsletter | August 2022

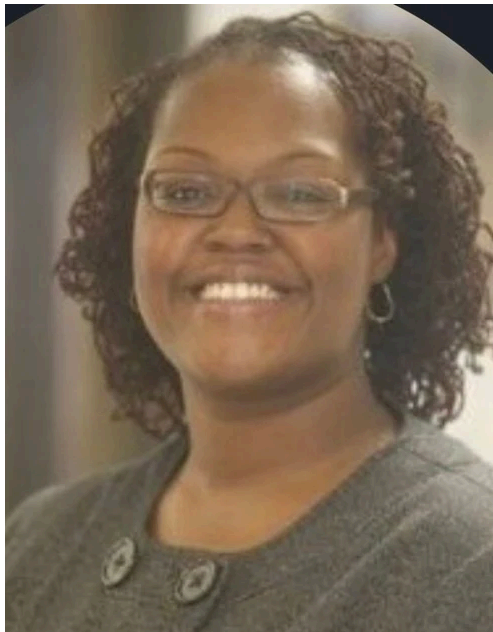
We are excited to announce the inaugural Advising Success Network Student Fellows! Nine undergraduate and two graduate students passionate about equity and social justice in higher education and student affairs from across the country were selected to participate in compensated project-based learning experiences through December 2022. These students will work in teams on projects related to racial equity in advising and present findings directly to national leaders.

Below, we also feature open roles and upcoming conference registration deadlines in the field.

Wherever you sit at the student success table, we invite you to join the ASN as we support holistic advising redesign efforts that transform people, processes, and technologies to create better personal, academic, and professional outcomes for all students regardless of their racial or socioeconomic background. Visit the [ASN website](#) to learn more about our mission, approach, and network partners, and join us on [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

The ASN wants to hear from you! Please [let us know](#) about your efforts to support students as they work toward achieving their personal, academic, and career goals.

Introducing our inaugural ASN Student Fellows



The Fellows

"Norkia "Kia" Baker is an Academic Counselor in Student Affairs at Delaware Technical Community College. In this capacity, Kia advises a diverse collective of students on the pathways to success while also providing career and transfer advising to students and alumni. She is a doctoral student in the Community College Leadership Program (CCLP) at Morgan State University in Baltimore, MD. Kia possesses a Master's of Education in Higher Education Leadership from Widener University and Bachelor of Arts in History from Howard University. Her academic and professional goals are to successfully defend her dissertation, graduate and author a book with career advice for emerging higher professional/student affairs professionals. Kia believes the ASN fellowship is an excellent opportunity to amplify the student voice while learning and actively contributing to improving student success outcomes through advising."

Norkia "Kia" Baker (she/her/hers)

ASN Fellow, Morgan State University



The Fellows

"Greetings! I am Deja Kenion and my journey in Communication Studies and Student Affairs began at my undergraduate institution, The University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Currently, I am pursuing a master's degree in Student Affairs at Clemson University and working as a Social Justice Educator. It is a passion and purpose of mine to help individuals and organizations become positive change agents in the work of diversity, equity, and inclusion."

Deja Kenion (she/her/hers)

ASN Fellow, Clemson University



The Fellows

"Hi, I am Jasmine Baldwin. I am from Terrell, Texas, and I currently live in Huntsville, Texas where I am entering my third year at Sam Houston State University. (Go Bearkats!) My majors are Mathematics and Education with a minor in Special Education. I plan on adding a minor in Data Analytics or Programming as I want to go to Grad school to study Data Science. The reason for the switch is because I want to help better Texas' and one the U.S's education system but it would be difficult to change the curriculum and practices from inside a classroom. On campus I am a Smith-Hutson Scholar, Evolve member, and I also work as a Peer Mentor, where I help students polish their academic skills such as time management. When I'm not busy, I like to hang out with my friends, play video games, or watch anime and spend time with my cats, Honey and Broccoli."

Jasmine Baldwin (they/them/theirs)

ASN Fellow, Sam Houston State University



The Fellows

"My name is Emily Cruz, and I live in Wichita, KS. I am currently a senior at Wichita State University. Here, I am double majoring in Social Work and Psychology and minoring in Spanish. Once I graduate with my bachelor's degree in the spring of 2023, I plan on pursuing my Master's degree in Social Work at WSU. With a Master's degree in Social Work, I hope to become a bilingual clinical social worker that focuses on providing therapy services to the Spanish-Speaking population in Wichita. Additionally, I am passionate about civic engagement and public policy, so I also hope to use my career in social work to advocate for immigration policy reform. In my community I am the founder of a support group for first-generation high school and college students. I am passionate about advancing equity for underrepresented groups in society and I hope to pursue this passion through my current roles in the community and in my future profession!"

Emily Cruz (she/her/hers)

ASN Fellow, Wichita State University



The Fellows

"My name is Callan Drake. I grew up in Anchorage, Alaska but live in Flagstaff, Arizona now! I attend Northern Arizona University and I'm majoring in Art Education in my senior work. I plan on teaching elementary school art and then hope to go onto grad school to become an art therapist."

Callan "Cal" Drake (she/her/hers)

ASN Fellow, Northern Arizona University



"A resident of Jackson, Mississippi, Jameitha is a senior Professional Interdisciplinary Studies major with an emphasis in Business Administration at Jackson State University. She is a member of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars and Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society. During her junior year, Jameitha developed an interest in Finance and Wealth Management after attending a recruitment seminar with Morgan Stanley. She applied and was accepted into a developmental program with Morgan Stanley and is working to receive her first securities certification. Jameitha is currently employed at the Mississippi Department of Public Safety where she is the supervisor of the Inmate Work Program. She is also a licensed realtor in the state of Mississippi. After graduation, she plans to pursue a career in financial counseling and wealth management while also continuing her real estate profession. Because of her passion for rehabilitating ex-offenders, Jameitha eventually plans to open a non-profit re-entry program that will teach the skills necessary for ex-offenders to attain gainful employment."

Jameitha "Mimi" Griffith-Ross (she/her/hers)

ASN Fellow, Jackson State University



"Hello! My name is Ariel Merritt and I am a third year at Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa! I am a Sociology major with a double minor in African American Diaspora Studies and Management. I am a Crew Scholar and a student ambassador for my school's Office of Equity and Inclusion. I am also very involved in my sorority, Zeta Phi Beta where I currently serve as Vice President! One of the passions I have is equity and inclusion. The very reason why I do this work is because I often do not feel seen as a low-income queer Black student. However, my experience is what has encouraged me to do the very work so that I am seen. In the future, I hope to continue my studies in Sociology in hopes to do research, with the ultimate goal I have for myself is to make a positive impact on my community."

Ariel Meritt (they/them/theirs)

ASN Fellow, Drake University



The Fellows

"Greetings, my name is Xavier Raphael Ortiz. I currently live in Maryland, but before living in Maryland, I was born in the Philippines. I am a new transfer student at Bowie State University and I plan to major in English or Communications, with the goal of becoming an academic advisor. For fun, I like to go out with friends and try different food spots in different areas in Maryland because there is a lot to explore in this little state. I am a very open-minded individual so I am able to get along with many different types of people. I also love playing games, sports, reading books, meeting new people, and writing stories! One of my dreams is to inspire others through the use of humor. In the fellowship, I am excited to meet different kinds of people, make new memories, and overall be able to try new things in life."

Xavier Raphael Ortiz (he/him/his)
ASN Fellow, Bowie State University



The Fellows

"My name is Nea, short for Renee and I am a first generation multi-cultural, non-traditional, student and mother of three. I have a small business, Boujee Bhumi llc, that focuses on embracing community talents and diversity, wearable art, and customizable fashion. I am a co-founder and sitting president of the Student of Color Alliance at NWCC and won runner-up for Student of the Year in Spring of 2022. I have been the recipient of two scholarships from Achieving the Dream and the Advising Success Network. Recently I was chosen to take part in Asnuntuck's Women's Leadership Initiative Certification. I have worked with Katal Center for Equity and Justice advocating against mass incarceration and the disenfranchisement of felons and how they disproportionately affect low-income people and people of color. I believe in equity, re-defining education, and building a better healthcare system. I am in my last semester for my Associates Health Information Management which works on the policy side of healthcare. I will be pursuing my Bachelors in something more specific to where I can be useful."

Renee "Nea" Restivo (she/her/hers)
ASN Fellow, Northwestern Connecticut Community College



The Fellows

"I'm Ariel Ventura-Lazo. I was born, raised, and reside in Alexandria, Virginia. I am closing in on my final Management classes at George Mason University in Fairfax, VA where I am set to graduate with a B.S. in Management in the Spring of 2023. As a parenting first-generation college student, I met unique challenges in achieving a postsecondary education, completing my Associate in Business Administration at Northern Virginia Community College between 2014-2017 before transferring to GMU. I've been involved in several key efforts to advance and innovate postsecondary education policies and practices for disadvantaged students nationally. I am excited about the opportunity to progress institutional student advising experiences, having worked in multiple advising offices for six years at my alma mater, Northern Virginia Community College while being involved in student advocacy. My hobbies and interests include spending time with my two children, my 11 year-old son and my five year-old daughter and a fun fact about me is that I am a former teen-father and I've twice advocated for first-generation students, presenting alongside former First Lady Michelle Obama."

Ariel Ventura-Lazo (he/him/his)
ASN Fellow, George Mason University



The Fellows

"Hi! My name is Danielle. I'm from Philly and currently attend The George Washington University in D.C. I am a third year student studying International Affairs with a focus in development, and a minor in Sociocultural Anthropology. I hope to pursue a career that promotes educational development. In my free time, I sing and have been doing so since I was a kid. I love anything to do with music, fitness, and children. I am super excited to be a part of this fellowship."

Danielle White (she/her/hers)
ASN Fellow, The George Washington University

Opportunities in the field

Strong Start to Finish is hiring

[Strong Start to Finish](#), housed at the [Education Commission of the States](#), is seeking applicants for the following roles:

- [Associate Director](#)
- [Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation Specialist](#)
- [Site Strategist](#)



Learn more and apply

29th National Conference on Students in Transition

(in-person and virtual)

Hosted by the National Resource Center for the First-Year Experience and Students in Transition, attendees will share with and learn from one another the latest trends, initiatives, best practices, ideas, research, and assessment strategies focused on supporting student success in the first college year and beyond.

Registration deadline September 15

29TH NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
Students in Transition
OCT. 2-4,
2022 & OCT.
18-20, 2022

Join us for the 29th National Conference on Students in Transition scheduled to be held Oct. 2-4, 2022, in Atlanta, Georgia and virtually Oct. 18-20, 2022.

NACADA 2022 Annual Conference

(in-person and virtual)

Taking place on October 23-26, 2022 in Portland, Oregon, NACADA's 2022 Annual Conference will bring the global community for academic advising together to reflect, recognize the perseverance and dedication that advisors have given to the profession, and look ahead to the future of furthering academic excellence.

Early registration ends September 8th



EDUCAUSE Annual Conference

(in-person and virtual)

The EDUCAUSE Annual Conference showcases the best thinking in higher education IT! Both the in-person and online experience will feature premium programming on the latest trends in higher ed IT from experts and community peers.

Advanced registration discount ends September 29th



Mission

Our mission is to help institutions build a culture of student success, with a focus on Black, Latinx, Indigenous, Asian, and Pacific Islander students, as well as students from low-income backgrounds, by identifying, building, and scaling equitable and holistic advising solutions that support all facets of the student experience.

Vision

Our vision is a higher education landscape that has eliminated race and income as predictors of student success through a reformed approach to advising, in which all students are supported through a seamless, personalized postsecondary experience that creates better personal, academic, and professional outcomes.



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