



## February 2024 News

### Co-Presidents' Message



Welcome to the month of MidWinter!

Did you know that each February your NACRO board and committee leaders get together for networking and advancing the business of the association? This year we had the pleasure of getting together in Atlanta, Georgia at the Georgia State University campus – thank you to the GSU team for being such gracious hosts.

As part of our time together, we reviewed progress on the [2022-2025 NACRO strategic plan](#). In our plan, the NACRO community continues to iterate on a vision where we:

- **Lead narratives surrounding corporate relations**, implement innovative programs, and create valuable resources for members.
- **Support and diversify meaningful networking connections**, enhance individual achievement and learning, and improve member value for our professional community.
- **Innovate and enrich university teams** to harness the power of external collaboration, elevating faculty and student experiences.

We have seen the work of all NACRO committees focus on elements of these vision statements in the first two years of the plan. As an association, we desire to attract new members and diversify our membership, increase retention, inspire critical thought, and provide best practices to corporate relations professionals. Our restructuring is flourishing in its first year and we are grateful to the leadership of each committee for navigating change with grace and resolve as we accomplish our yearly objectives under the strategic plan.

Furthermore, we are excited about the work that is happening this spring leading up to the [NACRO Conference](#) this summer. Please know that the NACRO board of directors is committed to enhancing the value of your NACRO membership and activating a national network of peers that you can learn from, inform, (dare we say, commiserate with?), and build lasting relationships that enhance your satisfaction with your career trajectory and professional development.

It is because of the work of our volunteers that this organization is a vibrant and caring community for all who are advancing the work of corporate partnerships with universities. A special thank you from our executive committee to each of those 50+ volunteers (and their supervisors!) who have stepped up and stepped in to support NACRO at the MidWinter leadership conference. Through our core values of education, innovation, and community, we are doing excellent work to advance the profession and we are proud to say the state of NACRO is strong.

Michelle Dingwall, University of St. Thomas  
Dave Ortendahl, Worcester Polytechnic Institute  
NACRO Co-Presidents 2023-24

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## **Board of Directors Seeks Nominations**

NACRO seeks nominations for qualified candidates interested in serving on our organization's Board of Directors. NACRO members are encouraged to nominate colleagues and peers with the leadership skills needed to guide our volunteer-led organization. We also highly encourage self nominations. Service on the Board is an

exceptional opportunity to shape NACRO and the profession. In 2024, we are seeking candidates for the following roles

- Vice Presidents (2 open roles)
- Communications Committee Chair-elect
- Benchmarking Committee Chair-elect
- Professional Education Committee Chair-elect
- Membership Committee Chair-elect
- Member-at-Large

The co-vice presidents will serve on the Board for three consecutive years, with the second year as co-president and finally as co-past president. Committee chair-elect positions are two year commitments with elected chair automatically becoming chair in the second year. The Member-at-Large position is the only position with a one year commitment. Criteria for candidates can be found [here](#).

Nominations will be accepted until **March 5, 2024**.

If you're interested in learning more about the commitment required to serve as a committee co-chair and Board member, please email us at [info@nacrocon.org](mailto:info@nacrocon.org).

### Submit a Nomination

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## Upcoming Virtual Programming

Interested in presenting a webinar or hosting a virtual meetup? NACRO is looking for webinar sessions for February. Submit your request via the link below.

### Submit a Virtual Program Request

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## Member Spotlight



**NACRO highlights the importance of relationship management...**  
 The sound booth acquisition is a result of our NACRO's teaching on seeing the big picture and continually working on relationships.

**Danielle Marie Wilberg**  
 CORPORATE & FOUNDATIONS RELATIONS | UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

[READ MORE](#)

Welcome to our new series spotlighting the diverse experiences of our NACRO members. Our intent is to inspire and exchange ideas. This month, NACRO connected with our first guest, Danielle Wilberg, Director of Corporate & Foundation Relations, School of Information Sciences at the University of Illinois to learn more about her work. We thank Danielle for taking the time to chat with us!

If you would like to be featured in our spotlight series, or know of a member with a great story to share, please contact [info@nacrocon.org](mailto:info@nacrocon.org).

## Read Danielle's Full Story

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## Welcome New Members!

- **Joseph Bork**
- **Aura Bryan**, California State University, Channel Islands
- **Allison Bryant**, Howard University
- **Tyler Burke**, Illinois Institute of Technology
- **Lauren Cole**, Troy University
- **Patrick Coleman**, University of California, San Diego
- **Monica Corchado**, Carnegie Mellon University
- **Tiffany Dana**, University of California, Riverside
- **Jen Donahue**, Illinois Institute of Technology
- **Mark Doti**, Chapman University
- **John Farley**, Maharishi International University
- **Michael Kelly**, Arizona State University
- **Robert Kelly**, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
- **Heather Kimmett**, Idaho State University
- **Susan Lewers**, Illinois Institute of Technology
- **Samantha Nikolai**, University of North Texas
- **Robee Pilgrim**, Pledged, Inc.
- **Kelli Quin**, University of Texas, Rio Grande Valley
- **Charlie Ryan**, Illinois Institute of Technology
- **Suga Smith**, Villanova University
- **Zacary Tardiff**, Metropolitan State University of Denver
- **Michelle Thomas**, Miami University
- **Ally Veneris**, Metropolitan State University of Denver
- **Nicole Wesen**, Rutgers University Foundation
- **Taylor Wood**, Arizona State University

## Learn More About Membership

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### Job Postings

#### [Kansas State University Foundation - Director of Corporate Development](#)

Interested in posting your open position(s)? The cost is \$50 for members and \$75 for non-members for a one-time posting in our monthly e-newsletter. Should you wish to re-run your ad, simply resubmit the posting, along with payment.

Job posting forms are due to [Aubryn Shivers](#) no later than the **1st** of the month to be included in that month's newsletter.

### Job Posting Form

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### NACRO LinkedIn Group

As part of an ongoing effort to assess our communication tools and our membership benefits, NACRO's board made a decision at Midwinter to end the NACRO group on LinkedIn. This group had over 3,000 members, many of whom had no affiliation with NACRO and was a source of confusion among our members.

Rest assured, NACRO still has a strong presence on [LinkedIn](#) and will continue to communicate from that channel. The Communications and Membership committees are hard at work planning out future communications tools for members, but in the meantime, if you'd like to share information about a job posting with your colleagues, please see our note above about sharing your job posting in this newsletter, or for other conversations among NACRO colleagues, check out our [Slack channel](#).

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### Contact Us

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