

NALP Solo & Small CSO Section Quarterly Report

TO: Gwendolyn Ferrell, NALP Board Section Liaison

FROM: Alisa Benedict O'Brien, Section Chair

CC: Claire Nash (cnash@nalp.org)

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Membership Development

We continue to engage our members. With the COVID-19 crisis, many section members have been posting more frequently on NALP Connect regarding resources and seeking support as we all navigate these challenging times and our membership has stepped up to provide answers and support. We also appreciate NALP's proactive approach in organizing town halls and timely putting out information to the membership.

As previously mentioned, Tanya Lundberg, Vice-Chair of Member Development, is spearheading our section's member outreach campaign. Tanya is creating a contact list of all NALP member CSO offices with 3 or less professionals. We will then reach out to each office and invite those members to join this section. This list will be updated annually as well.

Additionally, President-Elect Beth Moeller and I spoke about creating a Membership Workgroup to spearhead and manage making calls to new section members and to welcome them. We love this idea and look forward to implementing it.

We are also looking forward to a virtual section meeting in the coming weeks.

Environmental Scanning Update

We plan to launch our resource library during our virtual section meeting later this month and seek volunteer contributors. Perhaps, having these resources available is more important now than ever as we all adjust to working remotely. As a recap, our goal is to collect handouts (resumes, cover letters, self-assessment tools), sample workshops, presentations, and on-page guides (fact sheets on various careers, JD advantage careers, etc.) We are in the process of collecting names and emails of volunteer contributors. We will maintain a list of section members and resources being contributed and work with Lisa Quirk for release forms and uploading on the NALP website. We want to build the resource pool back up to the robust go-to resource it once was. Celeste Oglesby is leading this effort as our Vice-Chair of Environmental Scanning.

We had a robust discussion on our recent quarterly call about new and relevant resources we can share, including virtual job searching, virtual networking, online/web/phone interviews, etc. as we are all seeing great need for these resources for us and our students given the current health crisis.

We still plan to schedule a call on a "hot topic" to engage current and new members this summer. The topic will be determined in the coming months.

Annual Conference

2021 Annual Conference RFP Process: I announced the RFP process and encouraged folks to submit proposals or to reach out to me if they had ideas or wanted to be on a panel but did not know where to start to get involved. Many of our 2020 presenters plan to resubmit for consideration for the 2021 AEC.

We also put out a call for article or webinar ideas and encouraged people to come forward with ideas, if they want to turn 2020 RFPs into articles or webinars, or re-submit for 2021.

I will need to appoint a Conference/Articles Vice-Chair to organize and keep track of RFPs and articles.

New Business

The section discussed ideas to offer remote career counseling and job search strategies for students, including weekly emails, recorded programs, Zoom/Webinars, tip sheets and handouts. We also discussed the summer job outlook but many questions remain unanswered and many employers have not yet decided if summer programs will be canceled, shortened, or converted to remote/virtual programs.

We discussed keeping our 3Ls engaged with virtual coffees, writing blogs or articles, exploring interests and finding their passion with some unexpected down time, building their brand on LinkedIn and social media, and conducting informational interviews. Great ideas were shared.

Many colleagues are trying Facebook Lives to connect with students.

We briefly discussed how small offices are balancing ABA reporting with managing the new/pressing needs of students and employers.

The group is curious what will happen with the Class of 2020 ABA and NALP reporting and if the employment start date will be impacted, especially as some jurisdictions postpone bar exams.

Lastly, folks on the call were interested in our section scheduling a monthly call as a way for people to connect and stay in touch as the situation due to COVID-19 changes and impacts the work of our offices. We plan to schedule a call for May.