

Let's Ensure Inspiring Leadership for NALP

By Beth Moeller

Given the current state of affairs in Washington, lately I find myself thinking about—and hoping for—some inspiring leadership. While I don't have the answers to fix Washington¹, I am excited to ask you to begin thinking about leadership within our own association, NALP. You have the ability to truly make a difference in the continued success of NALP by nominating yourself or any other NALP member for leadership positions within our organization.

In contrast to national elections, running for a NALP position doesn't require political campaigning, fundraising, or bad mouthing your opponents. It simply requires being nominated and moving forward with that nomination. NALP's future growth and continued success is dependent upon our talented members engaging in this important process.

I encourage you to think about what you expect from and admire in leaders and then think about the NALP members who you find inspiring. Perhaps they have creative ideas, or they exude enthusiasm. Maybe they are unflappable under pressure, or you turn to them as a sounding board because of their good judgment. Maybe they are well-organized or always seem to be tapped into the latest news and trends in our industry. Whatever it is that strikes a chord with you, consider nominating those members and yourself for NALP positions.

There are no limits on how many people you can nominate. Therefore, think broadly—in addition to nominating the NALP members in your own organization, city group, or consortium, consider the NALP members you've collaborated with in other ways, including NALP sections, committees, or presentations. Think about the newcomers you've met who are excited and looking for additional ways to engage and further develop or the experienced folks who may want a new challenge. Most people are quite flattered to learn that you thought highly enough of them to nominate them for a position so you will strengthen those ties while also helping NALP.

And of course, don't overlook nominating yourself! While it takes courage to throw your hat in the ring to take on one more responsibility (especially after this nutty recruiting season), trying for one of these NALP leadership opportunities is well worth the risk. In addition to being educational, rewarding, and career-enhancing, NALP leadership roles are also a lot of fun. They allow you to stretch in new ways while working alongside terrific colleagues from across the U.S. and Canada. Most NALP leaders will tell you that they have gotten much more out of their experiences than what they have given.

It also takes courage to face the fear of going forward with a nomination only to then not get the position. I get it! On a personal note, before I was lucky enough to land in some

NALP leadership roles, I lost several elections and was not slated for positions that I ran for. I am so glad I didn't allow my bruised ego to stop me from going forward after those losses—the rewards, including the skills, expertise, and friendships I gained, were well worth the short-term disappointment. I encourage you to take the risk of failing. Even if you do not succeed in being elected or slated this time around, simply by going forward and being part of the process, you have essentially “leaned in” and are likely to be invited to be engaged in another capacity with NALP. Taking the step to go forward really does open doors, even if not always the ones you are expecting.

One of the great things about NALP is that it is an organization made up of people with true talents and leadership capabilities. Please help NALP in identifying and nominating some of those people. The formal nomination process will open early next month and the Nominating Committee looks forward to receiving your nominations then for these positions:

- 2018-2019 President-Elect
- 2018-2020 Vice President for Membership Services & Education
- 2018-2020 Directors (4 positions: 2 schools, 2 employers)
- 2018-2019 Nominating Committee members (11 positions: an employer and school representative from each general region; and one from Canada)
- 2018-2020 Regional Representatives (10 positions: an employer and a school representative from each general region)
- 2018-2019 Regional Representative – Canada (1 position: an employer or a school representative)

- 2018-2019 Conference Planning Coordinators (5 positions: West/Rocky Mountain Employer, Midwest School, Southeast Employer, Mid-Atlantic Employer, Northeast School)

To learn more about the responsibilities of these roles, visit www.nalp.org/nominating. The Nominating Committee looks forward to seeing your name on the list when the formal nomination process begins this November!

Endnote

¹ Shout out to NALP member Kelli Dunaway of Bryan Cave who is running for a U.S. Congressional seat in Missouri in the hope of fixing some of those problems.

Beth Moeller is Assistant Dean of Career Services at UCLA School of Law, and is the Chair of NALP's 2017-2018 Nominating Committee.