



Marquez becomes a NACADA Emerging Leader

Criselda Marquez, the current IAAN Professional Development Board Member and PACADA advisor at Purdue University recently applied for and was awarded a mentor in NACADA's Emerging Leader Program. Marquez will be paired with a NACADA leader in order to expand her role in advising.

When I first learned of the Emerging Leaders Program, I was excited because the goals of the program correspond with what I have been searching for over the last few years. I have just completed my sixth year at Purdue University. During this time, I have been in the College of Science working first with computer science students and now those that are undecided on their major.

For as long as I can remember, I have almost always been in educational settings where I was a minority. In middle and high school, I was one of only two Hispanics that participated in Honors courses. By the time I graduated high school, I was the only one in Honors courses. This was in a school with a graduating class of at least 300.

My undergraduate college career took me to a community with a higher percentage of Hispanics. However, with the exception of my roommates, I was still the minority in many of my classes. After getting my bachelor's degree in mathematics, I entered a graduate program where, once again, I was part of the minority.

It wasn't until I entered the working world that I experienced what it was like to spend most of my day around a number of other Hispanics. For the first time that I could remember, I was not the minority. However, less than two years into that position, I finally realized and embraced that I am gay. So after feeling like part of the group finally, the feelings one gets at times as a minority became even stronger once this realization came to light. When I moved to Indiana, I, once again, became the minority; only this time, I was a double minority being Hispanic and gay.

As I look around the leadership at Purdue University, I see a very small percentage of Hispanics. In our campus advising organization, PACADA, where there are over 200 members made up of advisors and others in student services, I would venture to guess that less than 2% are minorities. This leaves us very underrepresented. If you consider those that are openly gay,

IAAN Mission

The Indiana Academic Advisors Network (IAAN) is a group of professionals from colleges and universities across the state of Indiana. The organization was formed to foster the personal and professional development of its members. The membership of IAAN is comprised of faculty members, administrators, peer advisors and other professionals who are concerned with the advising needs of students.

The goal of the organization is to promote communication among its members. By joining IAAN members will get the opportunity to share ideas, learn about new programs, and meet colleagues with similar professional interests and situations.

IAAN will also provide to its members additional services, such as professional referrals, job placement information and an in-state resource clearinghouse. Because IAAN is a National Academic Advising Network (NACADA) allied organization, members will also be able to obtain links to other professionals, associations, and resources beyond Indiana, extending members' networking and information circle.

that percentage of the membership is much less.

Despite being the “odd person out” for most of my life, I have been fortunate to never feel that I was treated any differently than the rest of the group. It has been because of a few select teachers, my graduate school advisor, and my current supervisor Alan Welch that I have achieved all that I have to date. They have provided a great amount of encouragement and reassurance of my abilities, especially when I slip into the role of ‘observer.’ It is then that I get a quiet ‘shove’ that gives me the added confidence I need to seek more leadership opportunities.

While I have served as co-chair of the Communication Committee of PACADA in the past and currently as chair of the Professional Development Committee for the Indiana Academic Advising Association, I have not sought any higher leadership positions. I do have a strong desire to do so, but feel as though I don’t have the necessary skills to take on larger leadership roles.

When I graduated with my master’s degree, I set a goal that within five years, I would look into getting another degree. Five years later, I did look into a couple of programs, but never really took the steps necessary to get a second advanced degree. At the time, I was not in a supportive work environment and really struggled to just do my everyday duties. Since then, I have periodically revisited that goal. Again, it has either been bad timing, or I couldn’t find a program that really fit me.

Approximately three years ago, my self-confidence was at an all-time low. I was even at the point of questioning my career choice.

Now, though, through the support of

my current supervisor, I have re-committed myself the profession of academic advising. My self-confidence has increased to the highest level yet.

The creation of the Emerging Leaders Program couldn’t have come at a better time. This program would allow me to learn and grow even more from someone outside of Purdue, giving me a different perspective from what I have been seeing.