



[CSPA-NYS February 2008 E-lert](#)

From the President

Greetings CSPA-NYS!

Are you getting excited for Atlanta 2008? Have you registered? Have you posted your open positions with our top-notch Placement Center? Or perhaps you are searching and are finalizing your resume and brushing up on your interview techniques? As someone who was recruited for her first job at the 1997 Joint ACPA/NASPA meeting in Chicago (Yay, Binghamton University!), and has served either as an interview team member or employer for many of the past 11 years, I offer the candidates in our organization the following advice:

- Always think about your surroundings when discussing your job search. That person who is waiting for a latte at Starbucks in front of you might be from the institution you are talking about, or know someone there!
- If you receive an offer to interview for a position, even if you aren't interested, at least say, "No thanks!" You would be surprised how far that simple response will take you if your name comes up again in the future.
- Go to the socials for states where you are interested in working. The people who are there, know people! Bring business cards, talk to folks you don't know, and don't be shy about talking about why you are interested in working in their state!
- Even when you aren't "at" the conference, you are *at* the conference. You can take off your nametag, but there will be conference attendees everywhere. Remember that when you have the urge to let loose! That being said – even the informal socials are a place to see and be seen!
- Make it to educational sessions while you are in Atlanta. While job searching is important, the wealth of information and knowledge being shared by your fellow Student Affairs Educators is impressive, and that is really what the conference is about!

I wish all of our members and their respective institutions good luck and safe travels to Atlanta. While I won't be joining you, due to the arrival of a newborn any day now, you will all be in my thoughts. I look forward to reconnecting with members, new and old, at future CSPA-NYS events!

Best wishes,
Emily Balcom
President, College Student Personnel Association
Director of Residence Life, Utica College

It's membership renewal time for CSPA-NYS

Kimberly Williams, our Membership Coordinator, reported at our most recent Executive Board Meeting that only about 25% of the current membership has renewed thus far for the 2008 – 2009 membership year! Don't forget that with the change in by-laws, the membership year now runs from November 1 – October 31, effectively ending with the conference. If you have already renewed, thank you, and welcome back! If you have not, you can access our membership form at <http://www.cspanys.org/membership.php> and don't be shy about sharing this link with other colleagues in New York State, as we have several initiatives and events coming up this Spring that members won't want to miss. Kimberly can be reached at kwillia@syr.edu

Heading to Atlanta for ACPA 2008? Check out these great events that will feature CSPA-NYS!

Monday, March 31, 2008

CSPA-NYS Roundtable Discussion at ACPA

5:45 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.

Hyatt Regency - Hanover Hall A

Great things are happening in CSPA-NYS! During this session, the CSPA-NYS Board members are providing an opportunity for anyone interested in CSPA-NYS to come together to share ideas and information about upcoming events of interest to New York educators. We invite anyone interested in CSPA-NYS and its programs to join us for this informal discussion. So if you want to hear what is going on, are moving to New York for a new position (or hoping to), want to learn about professional opportunities in New York State, or just want to learn more, please join us.

Monday, March 31, 2008

ACPA Convention Showcase

6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Hyatt Regency- Centennial Ballroom

This year's theme is "March Madness!" Wear your school colors or athletic team apparel and display your school pride! Tables will be decorated "March Madness" style in honor of the NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Basketball Tournaments. Stop by the CSPA-NYS booth in the Convention Showcase! See what great things are happening with CSPA-NYS. We are also seeking volunteers to help with our Showcase booth. If you are attending ACPA and want to lend your assistance to this program please contact President-Elect Peter Fagan at pfagan@mwpai.edu to sign up.

Monday, March 31, 2008

Annual CSPA-NYS Convention Social

9:30 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Marriott Marquis - M301

We invite anyone with ties to New York State to the Marriott Marquis - room M301 after the Convention Showcase to catch up with old friends and make new ones during the CSPA-NYS Social. This social is open to all whether currently or previously from New York State as well as those interested in learning more about New York and seeing what New York has to offer student affairs educators. New York State institutions are also invited to use this event in conjunction with their recruiting efforts - please contact Peter Fagan at pfagan@mwpai.edu for invitations to share with candidates.

Professional Articles and Updates

Social Networking for Student Affairs

by Stuart Brown

In the past five years, according to a January 3, 2008 report by the Pew Internet & American Life Project, “social networking sites have rocketed from a niche activity into a phenomenon that engages tens of millions of internet users.” These sites are “an online place where a user can create a profile and build a personal network that connects him or her to other users.” The most well-known and most utilized sites include Facebook.com and MySpace.com.

The social network phenomenon had its genesis on college and university campuses. Remember when you needed an .edu email account to join an institution’s Facebook.com network? Nowadays, most of the major networks do not have such restrictions. While this has allowed membership to skyrocket, the open door policy has diluted their impact for specific audiences.

For student affairs administrators this problem has now been solved with the introduction of **iStudentAffairs.com**, launched in February 2008 as a social networking site for student affairs professionals that connects friends and colleagues with each other. Within a week of its introduction over 400 people joined, demonstrating the need and desire for this type of network. Individuals must register and be approved to access the site. Why are people asked to register? This is to ensure the integrity of the site. By keeping out spammers and advertisers, the focus remains on people interested in joining a community involved with higher education.

The response to the site has been overwhelmingly positive. Alex Herzog, Director of Campus Card Services at the University of Nevada – Las Vegas stated, “I can’t believe this site didn’t come about sooner. It’s a great resource for student affairs professionals and I personally like the ability to reconnect with colleagues in the field. I think this application is more personal and applicable for student affairs administrators than Facebook.”

Once people are registered, they can share program ideas, views on policy matters, photos, discussion forums and more. Within the first few days, dozens of interest-based groups that reflect personal interest or professional responsibilities were formed. These include such functional areas as residence life, career services and academic advising as well as a number of groups to connect alumni of graduate preparation programs. Personal blogs have been created, which are featured on the main page, as well as a wide variety of videos. “By combining member pages, photos and videos, and blogs this social network merges the best of Facebook, Myspace, Blogger, Livejournal, and Wordpress,” states Will Barratt, Associate Professor of Educational Leadership at Indiana State University. “This is the good stuff.” **iStudentAffairs.com** also provides, what the Pew report classifies as “public and private communication tools.” There is a built-in email system to correspond within the network, catch up with friends and surprise long lost colleagues. Individuals can also post messages to entire groups or write a post directly on someone’s My Page bulletin board, known as a Comment Wall.

The goal of **iStudentAffairs.com**? Continued growth with the desire to become the social networking site for student affairs professionals, where connecting, sharing, and collaborating will be commonplace.

Stuart Brown heads the website StudentAffairs.com

New York State Partners with Department of Education to address Federal Stafford Loan Default

By Emily Balcom

On January 11th, I had the honor of representing CSPA-NYS at a meeting in Albany with other members of the New York State higher education community, representatives from Higher Education Services Corporation (HESC), and a default prevention representative from the Federal Student Aid (FSA) program through the Department of Education. The Department of Education has begun an effort to tackle the issue of Stafford Loan default from a student success and retention perspective. They are initially focusing on the top ten states in the nation for default, and New York State ranks right up there with states such as California, Nevada, Florida, and Texas.

FSA staff made a short presentation about increasing student loan default nationally and among New York institutions of postsecondary education. The presentation focused on not only the rate of loan default, but also the increasing costs associated with loan default to the Department and to the taxpayers, and upon the risks of loan default to both borrowers and institutions.

FSA's set of concerns were set out in the presentation and discussion:

- The increasing rate of loan default in the Stafford loan portfolio
- The increasing number of student borrowers entering default each year
- The increasing number of dollars entering default each year
- Increasing cost of education
- Increasing use of private loans by students in all school sectors to underwrite educational costs
- Increasing indebtedness by students who are accumulating not only Stafford loan debt but also significant amounts of private loan debt
- Increasing numbers of schools in all sectors relying on inflow of both Stafford and private loan capital to underwrite operations
- Increasing risks for both borrowers and schools resulting from potential of diminished access to loan capital as risk of loan default increases.

Those who attended this meeting in Albany, including both financial aid and student success professionals, determined that we will do several things:

- Communicate via letter to the president/owner/chancellor of all New York institutions, with the letter copied to the directors of financial aid:
 - Outlining the nature and purpose of the statewide default prevention project
 - Explaining the nature of the risks to both students and schools associated with increasing reliance on student loans to underwrite educational costs, particularly given the proliferation of private lending and the increasing indebtedness of student borrowers.
 - Advising that all schools should now be building the capacity to assist borrowers to avoid loan default, focusing on both traditional strategies, and by exploring non-traditional strategies that depend upon increasing student success as a vehicle to reduce an institution's risks associated with loan default.
 - Specifically asking schools statewide to explore the relationship between student success and loan default. To this end, FSA will offer to provide each school with data about past defaulters and ask schools to investigate the extent to which there might exist a relationship between student success and loan default among their defaulting borrower population. We will ask schools to use this information to design default prevention strategies that will focus on that population of student borrowers identified by their research as being at greatest risk of loan default. We will suggest that schools call upon both financial aid and student success professionals to collaboratively oversee this project, interpret research findings, and make decisions about and join in executing school-based default prevention initiatives that may be suggested by the data.

The team also suggested a follow up email about this project be sent to the director of financial aid at each institution. The email to the financial aid director will focus on FSA's encouragement that schools take steps to explore the relationship between student success and loan default, and the necessity of gathering together both financial aid and student success professionals to move this effort forward.

Team members representing each school sector participating (SUNY/CUNY/CICU/APC) will be receiving a boilerplate copy of the letter sent to school presidents, indicating when the letter was mailed to schools. It is expected that a letter to school presidents/chancellors/owner will be mailed on or about February 15, 2008.

Upcoming Professional Development Activities

Best Practices: The Increased Importance of Risk Management In Higher Education



**Thursday, March 13, 2008
9am- 2pm**

**Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Student Union
Troy, New York**



**Hosted by: Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and
College Student Personnel Association of New York State**

Participants will have a chance to learn and discuss:

- updates on new laws, policies, procedures and standards
- overviews of common risk management definitions and terms
- recommended steps for implementing better risk management practices
- ways to identify challenges, key issues and common mistakes

The conference will include an overview of the significance of risk management concepts followed by a series of panel presentations focusing on key risk management areas such as Event Programming, Travel, Study Abroad, Athletics, Hazing, and Alcohol/Drug issues.

Panelist include: Charles Carletta, General Counsel, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Jack Buttridge, Risk Management Consultant for Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Richard A. Vohden, Marsh Risk Consulting
Dennis McDonald, V. P. for Student Affairs, The College of Saint Rose
Travis Apgar, Assistant Dean of Students/ Greek Life, Cornell University
Matt Milless, Director of Student Activities, Union College
Kevin Beattie, Acting Director of Athletics, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Deadline for Registration is March 6, 2008.

Registration Form
Risk Management Drive-In Conference – March 13, 2008

Conference Participant Information:

Name _____

Street _____

City _____

State _____

Zip Code _____

Email Address _____

Telephone Number _____

Preferred name for nametag: _____

College or University: _____

Fee: Cost includes: Parking pass, lunch and handouts.

\$10 CSPA-NYS members _____

\$15 Non CSPA-NYS members _____

Payment Information:

Make Check Payable to: **Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute**

Or pay by Charge:

Credit card - VISA or MasterCard

I authorize the Senior Class at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute to charge my Visa/ MasterCard in the amount of \$ _____ as payment for registration for the conference. **CSPA-NYS is not handling credit card processing for this event.**

Cardholder's Name: _____

Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____/_____

Signature of Card Holder: _____

Return this form with payment to:

Cameron Mclean, Coordinator of Student Activities

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

110 8th Street, Union Room 3702

Troy, NY 12180

Fax to: 518 276-6920

**Workforce Consortium for Emerging Technologies presents the next academic workshop on
Cleantech Workforce Needs**

WCET Academic Workshop #6: Cleantech Workforce Needs

Hosted by: Skidmore College - Tang Museum
Wednesday, February 27, 2008

Registration begins 8:30 am, and the program will run from 9:30 am to 11:30 am
Location: Skidmore College - Tang Museum, 815 North Broadway, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
Directions: (<http://tang.skidmore.edu/>)

Speakers Include:

Don LaVada, Director, New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA)

The Cleantech industry is emerging in the areas of renewable energy, resource conservation and sustainable practices such as solar and photovoltaics, ethanol and biofuels, fuel cells, batteries, combustion, carbon, IT, alternative energy, wind, geothermal, renewable power, water, environment, energy efficiency, or any other green technology.

Don LaVada, Director of New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) will kick off the workshop by sharing an overview of cleantech initiatives taking place around New York State. There will be an introduction of the education opportunities available with NYSERDA and highlights of an upcoming national conference taking place at Hudson Valley Community College on March 19 & 20 - 2008 Renewable Energy Workforce Education Conference.

If you plan to attend please email Camilla Griffin at camilla.griffin@fusionmarketgroup.com
Any questions or comments, please contact Elizabeth Herkenham at elizabeth.herkenham@wcet.us

Western New York Placement Exchange

Rochester Institute of Technology is excited to announce the **4th Annual Western New York Residence Life & Housing Job Placement Exchange (WNYPE)**. This year it will be held on **Monday, March 3, 2008** at RIT's CSD Student Development Center.

Last year over 25 colleges and universities in the Western New York region attended along with over 50 candidates. Registration for this year's Placement Exchange is available for both employers and candidates at <http://reslife.rit.edu/wnype>.

Registration and lunch for candidates are **FREE** and we are again excited to offer candidates from outside the Rochester area **FREE hotel accommodations** at the RIT Inn & Conference Center for the night of Sunday, March 2, 2008. Hotel accommodations are also available for the night of Monday, March 3, 2008 at a significantly reduced rate. Candidates can view registered employers and position descriptions at <http://reslife.rit.edu/wnype>.

Registration for employers is \$60 and each employer will receive two interview tables. A boxed lunch is also available for employers for \$10 each. Registered employers will be able to view the resumes of registered candidates through the WNYPE website.

If you have any questions about the Western New York Residence Life & Housing Job Placement Exchange please feel free to contact Kathleen Schreier, Candidate Coordinator at kmsrla@rit.edu or 585-475-5861, or Nick Ippolito, Employer Coordinator, at njirla@rit.edu or 585-475-7864.

We look forward to seeing you on March 3, 2008!

Bill St. Jean
Program Chair, Western New York Residence Life & Housing Job Placement Exchange
585-475-6741, bill.stjean@rit.edu