

Jeremy Howard (he/him)
Candidate for Vice President for Communications

1. Why are you interested in serving in this role?

CSPA and the people who make it have been my professional home-away-from-home since joining the field of higher education, supporting me since I first started as a graduate student and continuing to do so into my full-time professional life. This community serves an important role connecting the higher ed workers of New York together, whether SUNY or non-SUNY, and provides a platform for us to build stronger bonds and learn from one another. I believe the people at CSPA and the work they do help to make New York the educational powerhouse that it is - a mission I stand behind whole-heartedly and would love to serve in a greater capacity. I am keen on serving as the VP for Membership so that I can better work to engage CSPA's membership since COVID and bring both new and seasoned community members further into the fold.

2. What experiences do you have that are relevant to the responsibilities of this role?

I have served on committees and coordinator-level roles both within and outside of CSPA. Last year, I worked on the Logistics and Volunteers sub-committee with current member-at-large Spencer Cottman for CSPA's annual conference, keeping inventory of and setting up the technology for our presenters' sessions alongside various other duties during the weekend of show. I have previously served as the Treasurer of the Educational Leadership and Policy Graduate Student Association at University at Buffalo, working with the e-board to maximize the use of our budget, ensure as many students as possible received conference funding through detailed and timely communications, and meet other grad student needs. In both of my graduate student assistantships, I served as a recruiter and a coordinator of student leaders and had a major role in marketing and drumming up applications to the positions I oversaw. In addition, I managed and made updates to the Office of Academic Integrity's website, in accordance with university brand and accessibility guidelines. In my current role as an Online Academic Advisor at Alfred State College, I have managed an influx of student and staff questions at peak times of the academic year, kept detailed record of invoices and forms, surveyed students and staff, and crafted mass emails multiple times a semester.

3. Based on the job description, how do you envision meeting the responsibilities of this role?

As VP for Communications, I would like to make clear the benefits of participating in this organization through enticing marketing materials, clear messages, and an active online and social media presence. In addition, I would like to make taking advantage of this org's opportunities as seamless as possible, namely by leveraging technologies that feel intuitive to use and that take as much of the busywork of involvement off of the member's shoulders. Additionally, I would target specific member populations with relevant resources and offers to help encourage their participation in CSPA.

4. CSPA-NYS recently crafted an Equity and Inclusion Statement; if elected for this position, how would you support and actualize these aims during your first year?

From all I have seen, CSPA members pride themselves on their allyship and advocacy for all groups of people, so it was a surprise that this statement was only recently created, but it is a welcome and much appreciated addition to the mission. CSPA has always kept accessibility in mind, including their hiring of interpreters for conferences and creating high contrast web pages and graphics. This is a theme I would strive to continue in the communications I send and online applications I manage. Furthermore, CSPA as an organization values actions that communicate a culture of inclusion and diversity, as seen in the themes of their [monthly member resources](#). To affirm this priority and the community's reputation of safety and support for minoritized populations, especially in the realms of race, religion, disability, and gender/sexual orientation, I would create a dedicated space in regular communications to spotlight member-submitted achievements that further the work of racial, LGBTQ+, disability, and economic justice and more. Lastly, in this and in my general role as a CSPA executive board member, I will act in alignment with the Strategic Imperative for Racial Justice and Decolonization as put forward by ACPA, encouraging the organization to aid the sculpting of a society that is Authentic, Loving, and Just.

5. Are there any additional goals or areas of growth that you would actively support in this role?

My main priorities as VP for Membership will be to:

- Engage CSPA's ranks
- Reaffirm its culture of diversity inclusion by spotlighting community work towards DEI and social justice
- Revamp and streamline membership communications, while supporting ways to get involved
- Maintain professional, accessible, quality content on our website and social media platforms

Cliff-Simon Vital
Candidate for Vice President of Membership

1. Why are you interested in serving in this role?

I am deeply passionate about fostering community and facilitating meaningful connections within the field of student affairs. Serving as the CSPA-NYS Vice President of Membership presents an incredible opportunity to not only contribute to the growth of the organization but also to directly impact the lives and experiences of our members. I believe in the power of collaboration and the strength that comes from a united community working towards common goals. The vision, mission and goals of the organization resonates with me and these fuels my WHY!

2. What experiences do you have that are relevant to the responsibilities of this role?

Throughout my career and academic journey, I have been actively involved in various leadership positions that have equipped me with the necessary skills and experiences for this role. In every role I have had in the student affairs field, I was directly involved in the recruitment and retention of staff and students. I developed strategies to increase engagement and retention among members and demonstrating my ability to effectively manage membership-related tasks. Additionally, my background in event planning and communication has honed my ability to connect with diverse audiences and tailor initiatives to meet their needs. These experiences have provided me with a strong foundation in membership management and community-building, which I am eager to bring to the CSPA-NYS executive board team.

3. Based on the job description, how do you envision meeting the responsibilities of this role?

As Vice President of Membership, I envision implementing a multi-faceted approach to enhance member engagement and satisfaction. This includes developing personalized outreach strategies to attract new members, streamlining the onboarding process to ensure a smooth transition for newcomers, and fostering a sense of belonging through inclusive programming and initiatives. Additionally, I plan to leverage technology to create an accessible and user-friendly platform for members to connect, share resources, and collaborate effectively. By prioritizing communication, transparency, and member feedback, I am confident in my ability to fulfill the responsibilities of this role and contribute to the overall success of CSPA-NYS.

4. CSPA-NYS recently crafted an Equity and Inclusion Statement; if elected for this position, how would you support and actualize these aims during your first year?

If elected, I am committed to upholding and advancing the principles outlined in CSPA-NYS's Equity and Inclusion Statement. To support these aims, I will work collaboratively with the executive team to ensure that our membership initiatives are reflective of diverse perspectives and inclusive of individuals from all backgrounds. This includes actively seeking feedback from underrepresented groups, implementing targeted outreach efforts to increase diversity within our membership base, and advocating for equitable access to resources and opportunities. Furthermore, I will support professional development opportunities that promote cultural and

help build upon competency and create safe spaces for dialogue and learning around issues of equity and inclusion.

5. Are there any additional goals or areas of growth that you would actively support in this role?

In addition to the core responsibilities outlined in the job description, there are several additional goals and areas of growth that I am passionate about supporting in this role. One area is mentorship and professional development, where I believe there is immense value in connecting members with experienced professionals in the field and providing opportunities for skill-building and career advancement. I also see potential for expanding our outreach efforts to engage with graduate students who are interested in pursuing careers in student affairs, nurturing the next generation of leaders in our field. Additionally, I am eager to explore partnerships and collaborations with other colleges and universities where there are not many CSPA members (Ithaca College, Cornell, Sienna, U of Rochester) to broaden our reach and impact within the student affairs community. By actively supporting these goals, I am confident that we can strengthen the body proposition of CSPA NYS and create meaningful experiences for all members.

Cassie Sanzotta
Candidate for Member at Large

1. Why are you interested in serving in this role?

I am interested in the Member at Large position because CSPA helped me establish the type of leader I wanted to be for students and set professional goals as I began my career in higher education. CSPA was the first conference I attended as a graduate student. Having the opportunity to connect with my colleagues and students through continued learning from others and reflecting on different experiences in higher education is why I would like to serve in this position.

2. What experiences do you have that are relevant to the responsibilities of this role?

As a Member at Large, I am aware that I would be working on special projects with other members of the board. Working as an Area Coordinator at SUNY Geneseo, Residence Life wears many hats and assists on projects in collaboration with other departments. In addition to my role as Area Coordinator, I advise the Transfer Student Mentor program on campus. In this position, I run National Transfer Student Week with a few of my colleagues to support transfer students with their acclimation to the campus and with their personal and professional goals.

3. Based on the job description, how do you envision meeting the responsibilities of this role?

Working in Higher Education, it is essential to have discussions around different topics or areas that pertain to our students. Being part of this team will allow for collaboration between me and my colleagues to support student and professional development.

4. CSPA-NYS recently crafted an Equity and Inclusion Statement; if elected for this position, how would you support and actualize these aims during your first year?

Through working in Residence Life and my past positions as a paraprofessional, I have had the unique opportunity to understand how impactful and essential diversity, collaboration, and effective mentoring are. My previous and current roles have allowed me to grow and develop as a dependable and determined young professional, continually striving to progress as a leader and communicator. My great desire to remain connected in student affairs and residence life hails from my passion for fostering inclusivity. I firmly believe growth and development commence when individuals feel welcomed and are guided to finding their unique purpose.

5. Are there any additional goals or areas of growth that you would actively support in this role?

I would actively support growing and learning through the different aspects of intersectionality.

Denise Dawkins

Candidate for Member at Large

1. Why are you interested in serving in this role?

Allows me to be flexible in my participation, ideas and float where needed.

2. What experiences do you have that are relevant to the responsibilities of this role?

Current member, strong administrative support personnel, 3rd year Doctoral candidate

3. Based on the job description, how do you envision meeting the responsibilities of this role?

I look forward to expanding on the current ideas and views I have for CSPA-NYS.

4. CSPA-NYS recently crafted an Equity and Inclusion Statement; if elected for this position, how would you support and actualize these aims during your first year?

Continuously keep showing up and being present.

5. Are there any additional goals or areas of growth that you would actively support in this role?

Where needed, when needed

Spencer Cottman

Candidate for Member at Large

1. Why are you interested in serving in this role?

I have learned greatly about my professional goals and what being a part of a professional organization means to me, and I would like to continue this journey while supporting CSPA.

2. What experiences do you have that are relevant to the responsibilities of this role?

This previous year as a Member-at-Large has given me the experience of serving on the E-Board and as a part of the Professional Development team, giving me the opportunity to experience and see what the professional needs of our membership are and how to provide them in various modalities.

3. Based on the job description, how do you envision meeting the responsibilities of this role?

By supporting the growing and ever-changing needs of CSPA and its membership through flexibility, new ideas, and collaboration

4. CSPA-NYS recently crafted an Equity and Inclusion Statement; if elected for this position, how would you support and actualize these aims during your first year?

By looking for diverse communities in Higher Education in NYS and working to provide opportunities to engage those populations and bring them into CSPA in ways that fit their needs.

5. Are there any additional goals or areas of growth that you would actively support in this role?

Look to increase membership via making connections with graduate programs across the state.