

August 10, 2023

Dear AUCCCD Board Members:

It is with much enthusiasm that I write to nominate Dr. Scott Strader to the AUCCCD Board. I have had the pleasure of knowing Dr. Strader for over a decade as we both serve as directors of university counseling centers in the state of Florida. I first met Dr. Strader through the Florida University and College Counseling Center Directors group shortly after I became a counseling center director in 2012. The Florida directors group enjoys a very active and collegial atmosphere, meeting regularly during the academic year. Dr. Strader has served as a counseling center director since 2005 at both public and private universities and is currently the director at the University of Florida—Tampa Campus—Counseling Center.

Since joining AUCCCD in 2005, Scott has remained a strong contributor to AUCCCD, including attending every AUCCCD conference since 2006. He has been part of no less than 20 AUCCCD conference presentations over the course of 13 conferences, including half-day or full-day pre-conference workshops and breakout sessions. He was also selected to serve in AUCCCD's Elements of Excellence Committee in 2016 and served as the co-chair during at the end of his E of E tenure (2020-2022). As a former member of E of E (2016-2022), I had the wonderful opportunity to work alongside Scott.

It was during our time together in E of E that I learned so much from Scott as we worked together and co-presented over the course of six years. I saw firsthand how he truly *walks the talk* and lives up to all the E of E values, including being a strong collaborator; leading among peers; having a demonstrated commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion; and having expert knowledge about collegiate mental health. I also learned of Scott's long affiliation and involvement in AUCCCD and its activities.

Throughout our collaboration as counseling center directors at four-year public universities in the state of Florida, I have also come to appreciate Scott's compassionate, thoughtful, and strategic leadership. He leads with integrity and humility. Scott is someone who listens to understand and to learn from others. These qualities were clear when he chaired the Planning Committee for the 2016 AUCCCD Conference in Tampa, FL. Not only was the planning and organization successful, obviously with the wonderful assistance from Corinne Earle and her team, but we had a good time doing so. So much of this goes back to Scott's ability to bring us together and establish a tone of collaboration and purpose. Without intending to do so, Scott truly modeled the qualities generally associated with servant leadership—i.e., humility, integrity, vulnerability, accountability, compassion, courage, and authenticity.

In sum, Dr. Scott Strader's dedication to our profession, professionalism, leadership, integrity, excellence, and inclusivity are evident throughout his professional career and service to AUCCCD. I believe Dr. Strader embodies so many of the leadership and personal qualities needed to be part of

AUCCCD's leadership and help face today and tomorrow's collegiate mental health challenges. I sincerely cannot think of a most deserving colleague to serve on the board of our esteemed organization, AUCCCD.

Thank you for your interest in my observations.

Sincerely,

Ernesto R. Escoto, PhD

Ernesto R. Escoto, PhD
Director and Licensed Psychologist
Clinical Associate Professor
University of Florida