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Hello and thank you for taking some time out of your busy schedule to learn a little more about my wish to serve you as a member of the Board of AUCCCD.

I have been at Director of the Counseling Center at Pace University in New York City since 2003. Though I have served on Communications Committee of AUCCCD for 7 years and been on the editorial board for the Journal for College Student Psychotherapy for 4 and as an ad hoc reviewer for many more, I have felt a strong need to do more for our organization. My presentations at the annual conference and my role as a guide for new conference attendees has been rewarding but yet it has never felt like a substantive enough “give” to this organization. AUCCCD has been a rich and stable support for me during my career and I want to be able to give back to my colleagues as they have given to me. This is why I wish to be a board member.

Stability is key during these tumultuous times-colleagues leaving the field in droves, funding upheavals at our home institutions, never ending discrimination and violence to folk of varied sociocultural identities, and large increases in the number of students who have come to our centers have made this a very challenging and stressful job. Stability in our organization and in our jobs is important but it is not enough. We, and our students, need, and deserve, more. It is essential that our organization stays ahead of issues and play a significant role in shaping the perception and direction of college student mental health at a national level. It is also very important to represent our diverse and vibrant AUCCCD constituency with fidelity. I believe my previous work with SAMHSA as a grant reviewer and also a recipient of their grants, my work with our Counseling Center colleagues in Japan, as well as a lead on our campus in working with organizations like the Jed Foundation, the Steve Fund, Born This Way Foundation, and the Okanagan charter group uniquely positions me to serve as a forward-thinking, progressive board member who understands and can represent our varied colleagues. While I am a male, white, cis, straight psychologist, I work at an institution that highly values diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging in their diverse student population and see DEIB as a central set of values that each board member should have and that I possess.

There have always been excellent candidates who have run for the Board and they have served us well. I have no doubt that this year will be the same. I think your challenge will be to choose the right mix of individuals from various professional backgrounds, identities and levels of experience. I thank you for your consideration of my wish to serve and hope that you have a smooth semester.