

**Candidate for Board Member:**

Allsun Ozyesil, LHMC, NCC, Alfred University  
Wellness Center Director

**Prior Engagement / Involvement with AUCCCD:**

I started engagement as a member of AUCCCD last year, my very first year as Director here at Alfred University. I have increased my listserv engagement and even am helping peers who are Counselors and uniquely oversee both Counseling and Health Services. I would like to engage more in this way and assist others who also oversee multiple disciplines and services. More and more Centers are integrating under one administrator and I'd like to advocate for supporting all Directors, but especially those that are Counselors by training and oversee integrated Centers. I plan on attending the AUCCCD conference this year and explore all of the ways that I might be able to get involved.



**Candidate Statement:**

Hello! It would be an honor to serve the AUCCCD community as a Board Member. My pronouns are she/her/they/them. I currently oversee Counseling Services, Health Services, Health & Wellness Education, and the Food Pantry and the Wellness Center Director at Alfred University, in Western NY. I am a proud EOP (Educational Opportunity Program) alum, and my lived experience helps me to understand some of the unique challenges and blessings that come along with adversity. I believe decolonizing wellness and leveraging community care is the best way to support and foster resilience in today's students' and I am incredibly grateful to contribute to this important paradigm shift in higher education.

I am a Licensed Mental Health Counselor in New York State, Nationally Certified Counselor through the National Board of Certified Counselors and have earned a certificate in Animals & Human Health from the University of Denver. I obtained my bachelor's degree in Sociology at SUNY Potsdam and graduate degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling at SUNY Plattsburgh.

I have 17 years of experience in the mental health field and began working in higher education in 2014, while also operating my own private practice. I am trauma-informed, equity-minded and committed to social justice. I understand that some are at higher risk and that not all have equal access to education, care or resources and I'm committed to increasing access for the most marginalized members of our community.

I have a passion for serving the LGBTQ+ community, with special consideration to transgender/gender non-conforming individuals. I have also worked to support indigenous wellness, I was humbled to volunteer mental health first aid at the Standing Rock, Oceti Sakowin occupied treaty land, during the Dakota Access Pipeline movement in 2016. With over 300 indigenous tribes represented at the time, I learned a lot about the humility involved in serving as a relative and ally.

In my personal life, I am committed to preserving my downtime time with my spouse, two young children, pet dog, Mavi and miniature pot belly pig, Punky. We believe in community, and doing our part to help improve things where we live. Some of my personal self-care involves being with animals and nature, cooking, attending drag shows, roller-skating, and setting boundaries.

I started with AUCCCD last year, my very first year as Director here at Alfred University. I have increased my listserv engagement and have become involved in helping support peers who are Counselors, overseeing both Campus Counseling and Health Services. I would like to engage more in this way and assist others who also oversee multiple disciplines and services on college campuses across the country. More and more Centers are integrating under one administrator, cutting expenses by hiring Counseling professionals instead of medical professions, while paying them less. I'd like to advocate for supporting all Directors, but especially those that are Counselors by training and oversee integrated Centers with multiple services under their portfolios.