

Candidate for Board Member:

Scott Strader, Ph.D., University of South Florida -- Tampa
Director



Prior Engagement / Involvement with AUCCCD:

- Active engagement and participation in the AUCCCD listserv, 2005-present
- Conference attendance every year since 2006
- Annual Conference Connector
- Mentor
- Twenty conference presentations at 13 conferences, both breakout sessions and pre-conferences
- Chair, 2016 AUCCCD Conference Planning Committee, Tampa
- Member, Elements of Excellence Committee, 2016-2022
- Co-Chair, Elements of Excellence Committee, 2020-2022
- Consulting Director-On-Duty since 2019 (coordinating this program during my two years as E of E Co-chair)
- Member, Director Retention Committee, 2022-3 (Micky Sharma, committee chair)

Candidate Statement:

I am honored to be considered for election to the AUCCCD Board. In my 19th year as a counseling center director, with the significant changes occurring in our field, I feel now is the time to lend my skills and background to serving the AUCCCD membership through the Board. The profession of university and college counseling needs a strong and unified voice to advocate for both preserving the uniqueness of our work, and positively shape the future of collegiate mental health. In serving both small and large campuses, private and public institutions, I have developed a unique perspective that allows me to understand the varied and diverse landscape of college counseling, which I believe prepares me for thoughtful decision making and intentional action on behalf of our membership and profession.

I have consistently participated in AUCCCD throughout my time as a director. Serving in varied roles and responsibilities allows me to benefit significantly from the wisdom in our organization and help contribute to developing leaders in our field. Since my first year as director in 2005, when I quickly adopted AUCCCD as my professional home, I have actively engaged with the listserv as both a respondent and contributor. My interest in helping to make AUCCCD Annual Conferences successful has led me to make 20 presentations at 13 conferences and chair the Planning Committee for the 2016 Conference in Tampa. Many of my presentations resulted from collaborations in the Elements of Excellence Committee, where I served from 2016 to 2022, my last two years as co-chair. Serving on E of E has been a highlight of my career, and I feel grateful to have been a part of this talented group of directors. Like many E of E members, I've spoken with over the years, I moved from feeling like a true imposter ("Goodness, how did I end up here? I'm not *nearly* as wise as these directors") to experiencing the power of smart people thinking boldly about our work and the communities we serve. I've served as a conference connector, director mentor, and consulting director-on-duty. Most recently, I've been proud to serve on the Director Retention Committee, working with a dedicated and diverse group of

colleagues examining how to stem the tide of directors choosing career paths away from college counseling.

I currently serve the Tampa campus of the University of South Florida, a community whose 44,000-student body is 42% BIPOC-identified and 13% international students, and work with a diverse professional staff who teach me the most when I remain culturally humble and responsive. Learning from them and their lived experiences has helped me to be increasingly aware of the dynamics that force individuals with diverse identities to the margins, exclude their voice, and leave them isolated. The mistakes I make, and the lessons I learn, help me raise my more privileged voice in support and advocacy. As a white, cisgender, gay man, I have attempted to leverage my privilege to further an agenda of equity, while using my positionality to create an environment of belongingness and inclusion. As sociopolitical challenges in Florida threaten the lives of trans people and seek to erase the horrific realities of systemic racism, I continue to sound the clarion call of justice by ensuring equal access to mental health services, recruiting a diverse workforce, supporting the development of a multicultural organization, and fostering cultural humility.

As lives and livelihoods are threatened by political and economic forces beyond our control, the AUCCCD Board serves as a beacon illuminating the values of our profession and advancing our work. I ask for your support to join our dedicated board members and lend my talents to furthering AUCCCD's mission of advocating for collegiate mental health. Thank you for considering my nomination.