

**Candidate for Treasurer:**

Erica Pearson, Kalamazoo College  
Director of the Counseling Center

**Prior Engagement / Involvement with AUCCCD:**

Joined AUCCCD in August 2020; became a mentee in the AUCCCD Mentor Program in September 2020 (thank you, Patti Fleck!); participated in the AUCCCD New Director Support Group at its inception in April 2021; plan to join the LGBTQIA+ Director Identity Support Group in August 2023.



**Candidate Statement:**

As I confidently return to the world of college counseling directorship, I am feeling impassioned about becoming more involved and practicing advocacy on behalf of the field. I have worked as a licensed counseling professional in college counseling centers since 2016, taking the leap into administrative leadership as a college counseling director in 2020. I soon realized that I took the insulated support as a counselor within a college counseling center for granted because I faced hardship while attempting to promote the needs of college mental health care to a wider audience of college administrators. I feel proud of the breadth of work I was able to do despite pushback, but ultimately had to leave my position when there were concerns regarding repeated requests to violate HIPAA. After taking a disheartened break from college counseling, I realized my passion truly lies within the realm of college counseling leadership and found a new position as the director of the counseling center at Kalamazoo College. This time around, I feel emboldened to be an active participant in uplifting the field and supporting fellow directors, and there is no better way than joining the respected, helpful, and positively influential organization of AUCCCD. I have experience serving as treasurer in Psi Chi and Chi Sigma Iota, as well as board member roles in Chi Sigma Iota, ACA Interest Networks, and community nonprofit organizations. I believe this board member experience paired with my intense desire to serve my profession will make me a great part of the existing team at AUCCCD as a board member. My thoughtfulness, creativity, humor, thoroughness, and organization are sure to benefit the group. I look forward to my future involvement in endorsing the field of college counseling directorship.