

Q1.

2026 Executive Board - Candidate Application Form

The ACUHO-I Executive Board is a dynamic and forward-thinking group of individuals committed to using their diverse perspectives to expand the work of the Association. Guided by [the strategic plan](#) and the [ACUHO-I Constitution and bylaws](#), the Executive Board is charged with providing the strategic direction for the Association. This work ensures that ACUHO-I's efforts are aligned with our shared vision and mission to support campus housing and residence life professionals as they work towards student success. Thank you for your interest.

In order to slate the most qualified and representative candidates, the ACUHO-I Nominations Committee uses a number of categories/criteria in its review and slating process. You can find more information on these criteria at <https://www.acuho-i.org/who-we-are/executive-board/elections/>.

Please use this form to submit your application for a 2026 Executive Board position.

The Candidate Application closes at 12pm ET (US) on May 15, 2025.

Q2. Applicant First Name:

Jocelyn

Q3. Applicant Last Name:

Byers-Smith

Q4. Position Desired:

- ☐ Vice President (3 Year Presidential Cycle, 2026-2028)
- ☐ Globalization Director (3 Year Term, 2026-2028)
- ☐ Inclusion & Equity Director (2 Year Term, 2026-2027)
- ☒ Regional Affiliations Director (2 Year Term, 2026-2027)
- ☐ Residence Education Director (2 Year Team, 2026-2027)

Q5. Current College/University:

Goldey-Beacom College

Q6. Current Job Title:

Dean of Students

Q7. Email Address:

Q8. Cell Phone Number:

Q10. Administrative Assistant's Name:

Q11. Administrative Assistant's Email Address:

Q12. Upload a Professional Headshot:

Note: This image is collected should you be slated for a position. The selection committee does not have access to this file during the process.



[New Professional Photo.jpeg](#)

1009.9KB

image/jpeg

Q13. Upload a Current Resume:

Note: The Nominations Committee will use your resume to evaluate your ability to fulfill the duties of the position for which you are applying. Please review the duties and qualifications for your position of interest in the 2026 board nomination packet and address them within your resume. The 2026 nomination packet can be found here: <https://www.acuho-i.org/who-we-are/executive-board/elections/>

Q14. Upload a Short Bio (Approximately 250 Words). This bio will be shared publicly if you are slated.

[Jocelyn Byers-Smith Short Bio.docx](#)

13.9KB

application/vnd.openxmlformats-officedocument.wordprocessingml.document

Q20. Short Answer Prompts:

Note: These short answer prompts allow the membership to evaluate your qualifications for your desired position on the 2026 Executive Board. Your responses will be shared publicly if you are slated. Please respond pertinently, limit your answers to 200 words, and use the relevant EB position description when formulating your answers: <https://www.acuho-i.org/who-we-are/executive-board/elections/>

Q15. **Qualifications:** Please discuss the job positions, professional development activities, and other qualifications that prepare you for the board position for which you are applying.

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I am excited to apply for the position of Regional Affiliations Director for ACUHO-I, bringing nearly two decades of progressive leadership in student affairs and housing to this role. My current role as Dean of Students and my previous service as the President of MACUHO have uniquely positioned me to understand and support the nuanced needs of regional housing organizations, as well as to advocate for their integration and collaboration with ACUHO-I's strategic vision. Throughout my career, I have served in various capacities including Director of Residence Life and Housing, Conference Services, and Student Engagement, which has allowed me to work cross-functionally with campus stakeholders and regional partners. These roles have required a strong command of operational excellence, crisis response, community development, and strategic planning, all skills that are crucial for the Regional Affiliations Director role. As MACUHO President, I worked closely with the ACUHO-I Central Office and other regional leaders to strengthen communication pipelines and align goals across associations. This experience gave me firsthand knowledge of the importance of maintaining a collaborative and mutually supportive relationship between ACUHO-I and its regional affiliates. Additionally, it deepened my appreciation for the diversity of experiences across the regions and how ACUHO-I can amplify and empower those voices. Professionally, I remain committed to continuous learning and growth. I am currently pursuing my doctorate at Wilmington University, with a focus on higher education leadership, which has sharpened my skills in assessment, research, and equity-centered leadership. I have also presented at numerous regional and national conferences and have facilitated professional development experiences related to justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion. Finally, my ability to cultivate authentic relationships, navigate complex systems, and lead with integrity makes me a strong candidate for the Regional Affiliations Director role. I am passionate about the power of regional organizations and committed to fostering a collaborative and responsive ACUHO-I board that elevates the regional voice.

Q16. **Thought Leadership and Technical Credibility:** Please describe what you would bring to the board in the realm of this competency (as defined below).

Understands and keeps up to date on local, national, and international policies and trends that affect housing and residence life. Is aware of the organization's impact on the external environment and has pride in the campus housing profession. Is considered a thought-leader with a commitment to continuous learning about ACUHO-I organization. This includes a foundational understanding of the organizational structure, culture, and core programs/services to support the mission of ACUHO-I. Possesses an area of expertise that helps the Association meet one or more of its strategic initiatives. Understands and appropriately applies principles,

related to specialized expertise in campus housing and other areas of importance.

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I bring to the board a sustained passion for and deep understanding of the policies, trends, and evolving best practices that shape campus housing at every level. Over my 18-year career, I've monitored local zoning changes, national regulatory shifts, and international housing models, translating those insights into actionable strategies on my campus and in regional associations. I'm proud to champion our profession's impact—advocating for equitable, inclusive residential experiences while elevating the visibility of campus housing as a critical partner in student success. As a lifelong learner, I stay grounded in ACUHO-I's organizational structure, culture, and core programs, and I leverage that foundation to foster collaboration and innovation. My expertise in justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion directly supports ACUHO-I's strategic initiatives to broaden access and enhance belonging. By sharing research findings, facilitating workshops, and contributing to policy discussions, I'll serve as a thought-leader committed to continuous learning and to advancing ACUHO-I's mission across local, national, and international spheres.

Q17. Openness to a Multitude of Perspectives: Please describe what you would bring to the board in the realm of this competency (as defined below).

Fosters an environment where individual differences are valued and leveraged to achieve the vision and mission of the organization. Treats others with courtesy, sensitivity, and respect. Listens effectively; clarifies information as needed and is open to change and new information; rapidly adapts to new information, changing conditions, or unexpected obstacles. Prioritizes the best interests of the board, organization, and members over individual priorities, such as pet projects and personal advancement. Encourages and supports a positive culture between volunteer leaders, staff, and members. Willingness to solve problems as a group.

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As a collaborative and equity-minded leader, I prioritize creating spaces where all voices are heard, respected, and valued. I bring to the board a commitment to inclusive leadership that fosters connection, trust, and shared purpose among volunteer leaders, staff, and members. My experience has taught me the importance of navigating complex group dynamics with empathy, active listening, and a solution-oriented mindset. I lead with humility and welcome differing perspectives, recognizing that our collective strength lies in our diversity of thought and lived experience. I am comfortable adapting to change, navigating ambiguity, and balancing the urgency of today's challenges with the long-term vision of the organization. I consistently prioritize the mission and goals of the board and Association over personal agendas, and I hold myself accountable to the values and commitments we set forth. I believe in the power of teamwork, transparency, and open dialogue to move the work forward—and I am deeply committed to cultivating a positive, affirming culture where collaboration and mutual respect are the standard. My leadership is rooted in service, and I am ready to contribute with integrity, enthusiasm, and a shared sense of responsibility.

Q18. Strategic Thinking: Please describe what you would bring to the board in the realm of this competency (as defined below).

Board members should be able to provide both strategic and innovative thought leadership. Strategic thinking involves analyzing issues and making decisions that support the organization's overarching mission. Board members with the capacity for innovative thinking make new ideas and solutions possible. Articulate current conditions and anticipate future trends that impact campus housing programs. Ability to influence strategic direction and collaborate with ACUHO-I to create programs and services that meet the need of campus housing professionals. Ability to embrace an adaptable and flexible mindset.

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I bring a strategic and innovative mindset grounded in nearly two decades of experience in student affairs and campus housing leadership. I have consistently analyzed organizational challenges through a mission-driven lens, aligning decisions with broader institutional and association goals. I actively scan the higher education landscape to identify emerging trends such as shifts in student demographics, housing insecurity, and evolving expectations for residential life and translate those insights into forward-thinking solutions. My work has included launching inclusive housing models, integrating technology for improved service delivery, and fostering cross-campus collaborations that enhance student belonging and retention. I approach board service with a balance of vision and adaptability. I am not afraid to challenge the status quo or ask difficult questions when necessary to move the Association forward. I also value collaboration and believe that the best innovation comes from engaging diverse voices. My current doctoral studies further sharpen my strategic thinking, allowing me to bridge research with practice. As a board member, I would contribute thoughtful analysis, creative problem-solving, and a deep commitment to ACUHO-I's mission, helping shape programs and services that meet the evolving needs of campus housing professionals.

Q19. Developing Others: Please describe what you would bring to the board in the realm of this competency (as defined below).

Develops the ability of others to perform and contribute to the organization by providing ongoing feedback and opportunities to learn through formal and informal methods.

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I am deeply committed to the development of others and take pride in creating spaces where individuals can grow, contribute meaningfully, and lead with confidence. Throughout my career, I have mentored emerging and mid-level professionals, offering both formal professional development opportunities and informal coaching that encourages reflection, accountability, and growth. I believe in the power of shared learning and intentionally build structures that empower others to bring their talents forward while aligning their contributions with the greater mission of the organization. On the MACUHO Executive Board, I prioritized succession planning, helping new leaders find their voice and thrive in their roles. I fostered inclusive environments where feedback was continuous and affirming, not just corrective however ensuring every team member felt seen, supported, and equipped for success. I also integrate learning into everyday practice, facilitating workshops, leading retreats, and promoting reflective conversations that challenge assumptions and inspire innovation. As a board member for ACUHO-I, I would bring this same commitment to developing others, uplifting voices, creating access to leadership pathways, and investing in a culture where learning is ongoing, leadership is shared, and each member is empowered to advance the organization's mission.