

Kerri Smith

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Associate Director, Faculty Programs

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

I would describe myself as a “life long learner” - someone who constantly seeks ways to better inform the work that we do and to help others have the tools to do the same. I have loved finding a niche within residential life and housing focused on student/faculty engagement with an emphasis on assessment and data visualization. Whether it’s been my work as an Associate Editor for JCUSH, or my years as an adjunct teaching subjects such as research, assessment, leadership, or strategic planning, or advising our departmental Tech Ops and Innovation (TOI) Committee - I’m always seeking opportunities to embody the scholar/practitioner approach to our work. I believe that my experiences have helped me to realize the importance of using data and assessment to continuously improve and to demonstrate the value that we bring to higher education, especially now. I have been honored to give back to the field through participation as a two-time faculty member for NHTI and presenting at Campus Home. Live! (from 2014 to now!) and the Residence Education conference (6 times over the years) but I would love the opportunity to support others in this work on a larger scale through this role on the Board.

Thought Leadership and Technical Credibility: Please describe what you would bring to the board in the realm of this competency.

As someone who regularly teaches masters and doctoral students on topics related to current issues - strategic planning, leadership, research, assessment, and budget and finance - I find it crucial to be up to date on what is happening in the larger landscape of higher education and housing and residence life. Additionally, my work as an Associate Editor on JCUSH has allowed me to gain insight into topics that are frequently submitted - and areas that are under-researched. I strongly believe in the value of residence life and housing and try to find ways to share data and research to back up our ROI and demonstrate our impact. At NYU, I have been instrumental in developing KPIs for our unit and ensuring that they are connected to divisional priorities and strategic plans. I serve as the advisor to our departmental Tech Ops & Innovation committee and as a member, and interim chair, of our divisional Assessment Team. I am passionately committed to continuing to learn and grow and offering what expertise I can to the board and the ACUHO-I organization through intentional support of committees and projects associated with the Knowledge Enhancement Director role.

Openness to a Multitude of Perspectives: Please describe what you would bring to the board in the realm of this competency.

As chair for the Student Affairs Conference @ NYU, an annual event that brings over 650 staff, faculty, and students to campus from across the globe, I have learned how to navigate leading a

committee of 20 staff and graduate students from various units to ensure that our conference is representative of a variety of perspectives and meets the expectations of our attendees. As we move into our 25th year for the conference, I'm excited to see how our group will honor our traditions but continue to grow and innovate. As a move-in captain each fall, I have honed my ability to adapt in the moment - whether it's dealing with bad weather, broken elevators, challenging roommate situations, issues with facilities, or even quarantines - and support volunteers to ensure a smooth and enjoyable process for all involved. Finally, when preparing to teach my classes, I look to curate content that is inclusive of a variety of identities, experiences, and voices. As the Knowledge Education Director, I would be sure to utilize these strategies in supporting the research committee, the CHI, JCUSH, and the programming committee to ensure that we are representing the rich global landscape of our ACUOH-I membership.

Strategic Thinking: Please describe what you would bring to the board in the realm of this competency.

At a time when higher education is constantly under attack, research and assessment are more important than ever to demonstrate the value of campus housing and the return on investment. It is essential to approach our work with a strategic lens and to be aware of current literature in order to provide innovative solutions. As an Associate Editor for JCUSH, I find that I am able to stay up to date on topics of relevance to our field and often share articles from the Journal or the Talking Stick with colleagues. I also have utilized data from the Campus Housing Index and the Benchworks survey to inform our team and ensure that we are aware of trends and able to adapt as needed. Knowing how essential data visualization can be, I have taken courses in Tableau to hone my skills and improve how I communicate data to our stakeholders. I've also attended the Qualtrics conference for many years to increase my understanding of experience management through surveys and data collection in order to better support stakeholders. Being able to expand this thinking to the wider ACUHO-I community through the Knowledge Education Director role would truly be a dream opportunity.

Developing Others: Please describe what you would bring to the board in the realm of this competency.

Feedback is essential to the work that we do - understanding our stakeholders experiences and using that data to make better decisions is at the heart of my approach to our field. I have honed this skill through a variety of professional development opportunities - attending Qualtrics conferences, assessment trainings, and taking courses on data visualization along with participation in department and divisional assessment initiatives like the NSSE survey, the Benchworks survey, and external reviews for other university life units. I also have found that mentoring and developing graduate students through my roles as an adjunct faculty at NYU and UW-LaCrosse for the past 12 years in addition to the NHTI faculty role has been the most rewarding experience in my career. I come from a long line of teachers (mom, aunts, uncles, grandparents, etc.) and so facilitating learning is where I find the most joy. I still connect with folks from my two



NHTI clusters and graduate classes to check in and provide guidance and support when needed. I could see all of these connections being vital in the Knowledge Enhancement Director role to continue to determine how to best support the future of our field.