

# GSNP MONTHLY



November/December 2023

Graduate Students & New Professionals Community of Practice

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR



Happy December, GSNP!

With the end of the year in sight, I have been reflecting a lot on intentionality. I continue to hear “the days are long but the years are short” and while the last few months have flown by and this statement couldn’t ring more true, I think it’s important to intentionally slow down and be present. I’m sure many of us can relate to getting caught up in the day-to-day but every now and then we need a check-in. How am I doing on the goals I’ve set? Have I called my long distance best friend recently? How much have I saved towards that big trip next summer? When is the next opportunity to catch up with my mentor? Have I shown myself and others kindness?

As we wrap up 2023 in our work in the Graduate Students and New Professionals Community of Practice, our 35th year of service!, intentionality is also on my mind. There have been changes made and projects tackled that truly aligned with our mission, vision, and values and have us headed in a strong direction. I want to take this opportunity to share highlights from the year:

- Seven individuals were recognized through our formal awards process who are showing exemplary leadership as or support of a graduate student and new professional

- Seven individuals were also provided with a scholarship for future involvement in ACPA, one of which was a recipient of a brand new scholarship for participation in the Emerging Leaders Institute
- We already have one new professional headed to Chicago in March on scholarship thanks to donations to our fundraising campaign
- The Ambassadors Program was sunsetted and a lovely send-off gathering was held via Zoom in April where we were able to see and hear from Ambassadors and leadership from the last ten years
- The 2023-2024 Directorate Board has adopted and implemented, after spending countless hours, a two year Strategic Plan to ensure that we are being intentional and in line with our mission in our work
- Our Communications has gotten a revamp and has allowed for more engagement with all of you!
- Each of our functional areas have continued to work tirelessly to provide opportunities and a positive experience for our entire Community of Practice and those we serve. I invite you to read their individual team highlights within this month's newsletter. I am so grateful for the team that we have doing the day-to-day of our work!

Thank you for being in community with us this year! I am so looking forward to where we are headed and hope to see you at a webinar, at Convention, or joining our Directorate! Have a safe and healthy remainder of 2023.

Cheers,

Julie Townley (she/her)

Chair, ACPA Graduate Students and New Professionals Community of Practice

Residential Care Coordinator

UNC Asheville



Graduate Students & New Professionals  
**COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE**

# WHAT WE HAVE BEEN UP TO & WHERE ARE WE GOING?

As a new year approaches, we wanted to take a time as a directorate to reflect on what we have accomplished so far, and most importantly, what we have coming next! Our teams were asked to share highlights we are excited to spotlight below!

## CONVENTION EXPERIENCE TEAM

The Convention Experience team is getting after it to make sure that Convention is "off the bean!" as we would say in our words. We sure do love a bean pun this year. Our Convention Ambassador Coordinators, Rose & Nick have been hard at work getting the program back up off the ground, opening up the Application, hosting a recorded Info Session, and revising curriculum guides/handbooks for Convention Ambassadors. In Special Events, McKenzie has finalized the selection of Endorsed Programs for GSNP, and started the prep work for Convention Colleagues.

Additionally, Ally has been coming up with amazing ideas for our table for Connection Point, and starting to draft the case study for GSNP's Convention Case Study. Sydney has done amazing work with the scholarships process by awarding our first Convention Registration scholarship and then finishing up the Awards process for our Community of Practice. All of the Coordinators for Con Ex have been absolutely amazing, and we are SO EXCITED for you to get to experience Convention with us! Be on the lookout for some Webinars surrounding Convention prep and Convention Socials!

## NETWORKING TEAM

GSNP created the Networking Team this year and the Fall 2023 is the first semester in operation. The committee was created to be more intentional about engaging our current members with networking, professional and social opportunities as well as being more connected to other entity groups within ACPA. Within Networking, we have two teams: Cross-Organizational Involvement and Member Engagement.

This semester our Member Engagement team facilitated a session titled ACPA 101 for potential new members to learn about ACPA, GSNP, and how to get involved. Additionally, we will have more opportunities to connect in early 2024. You can expect to see sessions dedicated to discussing hot topics, happy hours, and virtual networking events. Don't forget to join us in the Member Portal to receive all of our communications about events for you!

The Cross-Organizational Involvement team stays up to date on other entity groups and reports back to our members. It is important to us that we are supporting the work of others. We have curated lists of events happening with others to share with our group. Early 2024, you can expect an Involvement Panel featuring entity group leaders focused on preparing for Convention and how to get involved. We find it important to be sure our members can be actively involved in other groups as well.

The Networking Committee has a lot planned for 2024 to be sure our members feel as connected as possible to each other and ACPA as a whole. If there are events you'd like to see as GSNPCoP members, please do not hesitate to reach out.

# OPERATIONS TEAM

We are thrilled to share exciting updates from the Operations Team! Firstly, our social media channels have undergone a complete revamp, highlighting ACPA Branding, a new motto "GROW as we GO", and content designed for the amazing individuals who encompass our community. A heartfelt shout-out to each of you – your passion is the heartbeat of GSNP ❤️.

Simultaneously, we're committed to keeping you informed and connected. Our website and records are receiving regular updates, ensuring you have the latest

information on programs, events, and news.

In our pursuit of excellence, we've introduced a streamlined assessment tool for the directorate. This standardized approach will be applied across all our initiatives, ensuring a cohesive and effective strategy. Your input remains invaluable, shaping GSNP's future and the opportunities we provide to our dynamic community. Thank you for being an integral part of GSNP's growth. Stay tuned for more exciting updates as we embark on this new year, new journey, together.

# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM

It has been an incredible journey serving as the Vice Chair of Professional Development for the ACPA's Graduate Students and New Professionals Community of Practice (GSNP CoP) over the past two years. This position has not only been professionally enriching but has allowed me to foster a strong sense of community and professional growth among our members.

One of the key accomplishments during my tenure has been the establishment of a robust and cohesive team. The emphasis on team building has been instrumental in creating a positive and supportive environment within the committee. I am particularly proud to see the growth and development of Blanca, who has been an integral part of the committee for the past two years and is now stepping into the role of Vice Chair of Professional Development.

Our committee has successfully organized and facilitated a series of meaningful webinars, addressing critical topics in the field of Student Affairs. We have delved into the experiences of People of Color (POC) in Student Affairs, provided insights into navigating a Ph.D. program, explored self-awareness and individual needs, discussed effective communication when seeking help, and tackled the crucial subject of financial literacy, among many other pertinent themes.

These webinars not only provided valuable knowledge to our community members but also created a platform for open dialogue and the exchange of ideas.

The diversity of topics covered reflects our commitment to addressing the multifaceted needs and concerns of graduate students and new professionals in the field.

In addition to our internal initiatives, I have had the privilege of collaborating with members outside of our committee to represent our directorate in various webinars. This collaboration has allowed us to showcase the strengths and expertise of our community on a broader scale. (Shoutout to Steven!!)

As my term comes to an end, I express deep gratitude for the opportunity to serve in this capacity. The experience has been immensely fulfilling, and I am eager to continue contributing to the ACPA community in a different role. I am confident that Blanca, as the incoming Vice Chair of Professional Development, will continue to lead the committee with passion and dedication, further advancing the goals of our community.

I look forward to exploring new opportunities within ACPA and continuing to contribute to the growth and development of our community.

# APPLY FOR THE 2024–2025 DIRECTORATE!



Interested in making an impact as a Grad Student or New Professional?  
Interested in helping bridge professional development access gaps? Want to help others GROW as they GO?

**APPLY FOR THE DIRECTORATE** of the ACPA Graduate Students & New Professionals Community of Practice. For more information check out the Interest Packet linked on the Application!

**APPLY HERE or at [bit.ly/GSNPAPPLY](https://bit.ly/GSNPAPPLY)**

# TO 35 & BEYOND

## 35TH ANNIVERSARY FUNDRAISER



Our Community of Practice strives to offer scholarships for opportunities hosted by ACPA to aid in the growth and retention of our new colleagues. By contributing to our Foundation Campaign, you are directly supporting graduate students and new professionals by providing scholarships for attending ACPA's Annual Convention, obtaining an ACPA membership, attending webinars throughout the year, and attending the Emerging Leaders Institute. Your support is greatly appreciated and valued to help our graduate students and new professionals "grow as they go"! Please contribute what you're able, though we would be thrilled with amounts of \$3.50 or \$35.00 in celebration of our 35 years of service to ACPA

**[CLICK HERE TO DONATE!](#)**

## 2024-2025

### CHAIR AND VICE CHAIRS



Chair-Elect

Olivia Maldonado (she/her)  
Coordinator for Residence Life  
Appalachian State University



Vice Chair of Operations

Steven Feldman (he/they)  
PhD Student, Indiana University Bloomington



Vice Chair of Professional Development:

Blanca Moncada (she/ella)  
Residence Director, University of San Francisco

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR  
NEWLY ELECTED LEADERSHIP!**