

Pre-convention Newsletter



February 2010

Commission for
Commuter Students and
Adult Learners

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The TOP TEN Reasons to Be in Boston

10. Create a professional development transcript that allows you to be intentional about the programs and events you attend. This transcript will provide an opportunity for you to identify specific goals, learning [outcomes](#) and the ability to take further action to implement new strategies, raise awareness and create new models in your work.
9. Re-acquaint and network with friends and colleagues at social events, programs and meetings.
8. Engage and [get involved](#) with ACPA by participating in a new program called, Passport: Get Engaged with ACPA.
7. Participate in the [Convention Colleagues](#) program by serving as a mentor or mentee.
6. Take advantage of the in-depth professional development opportunities by attending one of the [pre-convention workshops](#). Spend a half or full-day learning about assessment and developing meaningful outcomes, leading through change, emerging issues in diversity and social justice, career mapping and more!
5. Attend spectacular special events and initiatives featuring relevant, engaging, and artistic entertainment.
4. Check-out the all new [Career Central at Convention](#) services to best serve employers and candidates. This high-tech online system enables employers and candidates to experience ease throughout the entire employment process.
3. Learn from exceptional [featured speakers](#) and [educational curriculum](#) that include symposiums, critical issues, competencies, institutes, SSAO and faculty tracks.
2. Take advantage of the new [One-Day Pass](#) for ACPA members—this is the perfect way to send staff to a professional convention while maximizing professional development dollars.
1. Experience the convention through affordable [registration](#) and [hotel](#) rates, economical meals and unparalleled convenience to meeting and [interview](#) venues!

From: http://convention.myacpa.org/boston/top_ten.php

Our #1 Reason:

To experience the Commission for Commuter Students and Adult Learners!

A Special Invitation

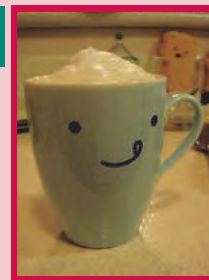
Please join us for the *ACPA Awards Ceremony & Leadership/Corporate Partner Reception* on **Saturday March 20, 2010 from 5:00 to 7:00 P.M. in the Sheraton Hotel Constitution Ballroom AB.**

The ceremony and reception are an opportunity to acknowledge colleagues, institutions, and partners who have made a difference in the field of student affairs. The awards for the Commission for Commuter Students and Adult Learners, as well as other Commissions and Standing Committees will be presented at this event. We would enjoy sharing this time with you and having you be a part of our celebration.

Breakfast in Boston

A new convention feature! Several 'no-host' breakfast and lunch events sponsored by the Hospitality team provide an opportunity to learn about getting actively involved with ACPA services and engage in educational conversations. We hope you will join the Commission for Commuter Students & Adult Learners on **Monday, March 22, 2010 from 8:00 to 10:00 A.M. in the Hynes Convention Center - Hospitality 2nd Floor.** Please RSVP to Jeannette Passmore at jeannette.passmore@gmail.com.

Please plan on seeing us for Breakfast on Monday and bring a friend!



<http://www.flickr.com/photos/littledebbie11/> / CC BY 2.0

2010 Convention Sponsored Programs

By [Laura Yamin](#)

The Commission Sponsored Programs for the 2010 National Convention have been selected! Commission members are encouraged to attend these special programs and to support our members who are presenting their programs and representing professionals with an interest in Commuter Students and Adult Learners! You can view the complete schedule [online](#).

Tailgating on the Internet: Campus Traditions Online (ROUNDTABLE!)

Sheraton Boston Hotel - Beacon G

Monday March 22 - 7:30 AM - 08:30 AM

This roundtable will address the relationship between campus traditions and online students. Specifically, we will discuss both campus traditions that can be delivered online and also traditions that originate online. We will come prepared with examples of our traditions and look forward to learning about the traditions of other institutions.

Presenters: Amy O'Keefe, Texas Women University, Allison Mabry, Texas Women University



<http://www.flickr.com/photos/skidr/d/> / CC BY 2.0

Commuter Programs that Generate Revenue

Sheraton Boston Hotel-Liberty B

Monday, March 22 10:15-11:30 A.M.

How can we meet the needs of our commuting students in this challenging economic climate? Research shows that residential students persist at higher rates than those who live off-campus. It's critical for colleges to connect with, engage and ultimately retain their commuter populations. Easier said than done. How do we do this with limited or no resources? This session will discuss numerous ways in which commuter programs have generated additional revenue for themselves and how some have become self-sustaining operations.

Presenter: Amy Greenland, Arizona State University

Supporting All Graduate Students at the University of New Hampshire

Sheraton Boston Hotel - Liberty A

Monday March 22 - 10:15 - 11:30 A.M.

Through a variety of assessment methods, the student union at the University of New Hampshire determined several shortcomings in meeting the needs of our diverse graduate student population. Many programs were developed to meet some of these needs and to better serve this population. Discover what was learned and return home with ideas and methods to engage your graduate students.

Presenters: Brett Gagnon, University of New Hampshire, MaryAnne Lustgraaf, University of New Hampshire

Commuters in Service – Local Alternative Spring Breaks

Sheraton Boston Hotel - Fairfax A

Monday March 22 - 1:15-2:30 P.M.

A lively program, we will narrate the building of an alternative spring break program for commuter students at a rural public university with an intention on developing commuter student leadership experiences. Celebrations and pitfalls will be discussed from the theoretical and practical sides, as well as narrative from the accompanying faculty.

Presenter: Jonathan M Calabretta, Shepherd University and Alan Tinkler, University of Vermont

More Than a Place to Park: Successful Programs for Commuters

Hynes Convention Center - 203

Monday March 22 - 4:15-5:30 P.M.

This program will be an interactive presentation consisting of a five-minute introduction from a representative from the National Clearinghouse for Commuter Programs (NCCP), followed by three 15-20 minute presentations on innovative commuter programs and adult learner practices from members of the Commission for Commuter Students and Adult Learners and the NCCP. After the presentations, there will be 15-20 minutes for questions and critique of the programs and ideas presented.

Presenters: Katie Munsch, University of Maryland, Melissa Mahan, Northeastern State University, Amy O'Keefe, Texas Women University, Shadia A. Sachedina, Baruch College City University of New York



Town Hall Assembly

Town Hall Assembly—*ALL CONVENTION ATTENDEES WELCOME*

Monday, March 22, 2010 3:00 to 5:00 P.M. At the Sheraton Boston Hotel, Constitution Ballroom AB

Commission Open Business Meeting

The open business meeting is a time to get updates on the Commission, updates on ACPA as it relates to the overall Commission, and sign up for involvement opportunities within the Commission. We invite you to bring forth issues/topics of importance to you as a Commission member, network with colleagues who also work with commuter students and adult learners, and meet our Award Nominees and Recipients. Please join us on *Tuesday March 23, 2010 from 02:30 P.M. - 05:00 P.M. at the Boston Marriott Copley Place - MIT*

ACPA Convention Showcase

By [Dr. Melissa Mahan](#)

Commission for Commuter Students and Adult Learners

ACPA Convention Showcase

Monday, March 22, 2010

6:30 to 8:00 pm

Marriott Copley

What is the Showcase?

The Convention Showcase is an opportunity for association entities like, State /International Commissions, Standing Committees, and Task Forces to highlight their contributions to the association and provide opportunities for individual members to become involved and receive valuable information for their institutions (ACPA, 2010).

Does the Showcase have a theme?

The theme, *Welcome to ACPA! Your Journey Starts Here*, is designed to create a festive atmosphere for the members to explore the myriad of opportunities for involvement (ACPA, 2010).

What happens at the Showcase?

Each ACPA entity will host a table at the showcase. Exciting and fun activities are planned at each table to in an effort to introduce convention attendees to each of the organizations. Literature, sign-up sheets, and give-aways are offered to encourage involvement as well as provide valuable resources to members. There will be live entertainment throughout the Showcase and light snacks will be served which include foods like Italian Sausage, Fenway Franks, and Pretzels. (ACPA, 2010).

What will be happening at the Commission for Commuter Students and Adult Learners Showcase Table?

Continuing with the ballpark food theme, you can explore our “Dugout” to find a wide variety of resource materials and drawings to include:

- **“Spring Training”**- A listing of the Commission’s sponsored program sessions at the convention.
- **“Fans”**-Sign-up to join a committee or area of responsibility within the Commission.
- **“Tickets”**-Enter to win a drawing for an official Red Sox Jersey.
- **“Fenway Park Trivia”**- Try your luck at our trivia game. Each correct answer gives you an extra ticket for our drawing.
- **“Foul Ball”**- Draw from our bucket of “foul balls” to win instant prizes.

You will not want to miss this event! For more information about the showcase or how you can help with this event, contact Melissa Mahan @ mahanmk@nsuok.edu or 918.449.6131.



Programs of Interest

Pre-Convention Workshop:

Elevating Student Development at Community Colleges and Commuter Campuses

Sheraton Boston Hotel, Beacon B

Sunday, March 21, 2010 9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

Educators that are responsible for student development within a community college and among high levels of commuter students are confronted by the many factors that prevent these students from engaging in campus activities, service experiences, leadership development opportunities, and other involvements that provide a full learning environment. This program will focus on illustrating innovative programs and initiatives that demonstrate the best practices in increasing student involvement, elevating student development, and improving student learning among community college and commuter students.

Bridging the Gap between Traditional and Non-Traditional Students

Boston Marriott Copley Place, Berkeley

Monday, March 22, 2010 2:45 - 4:00 P.M.

Non-traditional students are achieving academically, but how are they interacting with their peers? This interactive presentation based on an ethnographic study examines how traditional aged students perceive their non-traditional peers in the classroom and how their opinions of them create a challenging environment in the campus community. An effective learning community can be created by examining the [1] current stereotypes of non-traditional students, [2] establishing effective communication by examining learning theories and classroom structure, [3] understanding the non-traditional student.

Showing your LION Pride: Global Citizenship for Off Campus Students

Boston Marriott Copley Place, Provincetown

Monday, March 22, 2010 4:15 - 5:30 P.M.

While it is vital for college administrators to assist in finding, safe, comfortable, and adequate housing off campus, there is more for them to do. The LION Pride Program was developed to help students make an impact rather than just an impression on their community. Global citizenship is emphasized by teaching them about leadership, involvement, being oriented and being neighborly. This program will identify issues facing students off campus and how to implement programs and practices on your own campuses.

The Revenue Side of Service: Creating Partnerships that are Sustainable

Sheraton Boston Hotel, Beacon G

Monday, March 22, 2010 1:15 - 2:30 P.M.

If strategic partnerships are to be formed and sustained in the future, becoming as concerned about revenue generation as expenditure moderation must become part of our professional discussion. The reliance on budget allocation to fund such partnerships will limit future initiatives because of the ever increasing competition for existing dollars and the pressure to limit college expenses. This session will suggest methods for responding to market pressures while appealing to the mission and mutual self-interest of partners.

Virtual Learning Resources: Extending Access to all Students

Boston Marriott Copley Place, Wellesley

Tuesday, March 23, 2010 7:30 - 8:30 A.M.

As the number of academic programs and courses offered online increases, institutions are faced with the challenge of delivering resources that promote effective online learning and support the virtual student. In this interactive presentation, participants will (1) gain an understanding of the innovative approach Capella University has taken to provide resources that help students learn effectively online, (2) gain knowledge of assessment approaches, and (3) develop an action plan for applying this new information at their institution.

E-Student Affairs: Innovative High Touch in a High Tech World

Sheraton Boston Hotel, Independence West

Tuesday, March 23, 2010 10:15 - 11:30 A.M.

@DistEdPeeps: R U ready 4 the online revolution? With over 20% (or 3.9 million) of all U.S. higher education students enrolled in at least one online course (Allen & Seaman, 2008), universities are struggling to connect these students to traditional campus life. At our session we will identify the needs of online students, examine best practices, and share concrete examples of success and failure and the strategic partnerships that resulted in a new way of delivering student life services.

Programs of Interest

Developing a Veteran and Servicemember Resource Center: Challenges and Opportunities

Hynes Convention Center, 208

Tuesday, March 23, 2010 2:45 - 4:00 P.M.

This program will describe the development of a campus Veteran and Servicemember Resource Center. Presenters will highlight efforts to: identify and connect with servicemember/veteran students, promote an environment supportive of this population, and educate the College community about this unique subset of students. The presentation will include visual examples of materials created for use by the Center. In addition, presenters will describe challenges experienced over the past year and plans for further development and goals for the Center.

Fostering Global Citizenship and Serving Diverse Student Populations with Technology

Boston Marriott Copley Place, Arlington

Tuesday, March 23, 2010 4:15 - 5:30 P.M.

The general themes of expanding technology and global citizenry are examined within the specific context of an online proprietary technical college. Strategies for engaging students in their school community, engaging them in their local communities, and using technology to constantly evaluate and refine student services programs are presented using examples from Centura College Online staff members' experiences as well as an examination of the professional literature.

Deconstructing the Transfer Experience: A Community College's Best Practices

Boston Marriott Copley Place, Berkeley

Monday, March 22, 2010 7:30 - 8:30 A.M.

With enrollment booming at community colleges and an increase in traditional aged students seeking transfer, it is more important than ever for community colleges and receiving institutions to prepare community college students for the transfer process. Research indicates transfer students face obstacles and challenges fundamentally different than native students at four year institutions. During this workshop, the presenters will outline a series of strategies and programs used at a small community college in Massachusetts to better prepare students for transfer.

What will you do with the New Transfer Students?

Boston Marriott Copley Place, Arlington

Tuesday, March 23, 2010 7:30 - 8:30 A.M.

The purpose of this study was to discover more about transfer students' experience during and after the transition from either a two-year or another four-year institution to The University of Alabama (UA) and identify any gaps in services presently offered for transfer students. This session will examine the findings of the Fall 2008 survey of students who transferred to UA during the 2007-2008 academic year. The results provide a demographic profile of transfer students, their experiences, perceptions and adjustment processes.

Transferpalooza: The Texas Transfer Success Conference

Sheraton Boston Hotel, Exeter AB

Wednesday, March 24, 2010 8:00 - 9:15 A.M.

The Texas Transfer Success Conference was held on May 22, 2009, simultaneously at eight geographically distributed sites in Texas with nearly 1,000 in attendance. Statewide conference speakers were transfer student success experts John Gardner, Betsy Barefoot, and Trudy Bers. The conference included presentation of the STEP Awards (Successful Transfer Enhancement Programs), in which about 30 programs, across eight categories of practice, were selected for recognition among more than 70 entries.

***The #1 Reason We Are Looking Forward to
ACPA 2010?***

YOU!

Learning what the members of the Commission for Commuter Students and Adult Learners are interested in and what we can do for YOU!



Attention Parents: New Child Care Services Policy for the 2010 Convention

Child Care Services *Given the litigious nature of our society, the concerns around contagious health-related issues and the increased cost of liability coverage needed to offer attendees family services, ACPA cannot offer any direct family services to convention participants.* (Approved by the ACPA Governing Board, December 2009).

There are numerous family and child care resources available in the Boston Back Bay area. ACPA does not recommend specific child care resources and urges potential users of these services to use their own due diligence in their review of potential child care and family services. One convenient search engine to begin with is Yelp.com. We strongly recommend that resources of the Better Business Bureau and the Massachusetts State Licensing Agency be utilized in this review.

The following child care services are recommendations from our host hotels, Sheraton Boston and Marriott Copley Place:

- [Parents in a Pinch](#)
- [Boston's Best Babysitters](#)

From: <http://convention.myacpa.org/boston/hospitality.php>

Your 1-Click Stop to Do Good! Get Involved! Network!

The annual convention is a busy and productive time for ACPA members and provides us with great opportunities for connecting with other professionals. Taking a few hours to volunteer is a great way to express our professional spirit and collegiality. But why should we use valuable time to volunteer?

- It makes the conference run smoothly when many people give their energy and their talents.
- Volunteering at the conference allows for added opportunities to network with peers across regional and national boundaries
- Volunteering embeds mentorship and collaboration as a normal part of everyday
- Volunteering adds tremendous value to professional development for experienced and newer members.

The [Sign-up page](#) is ready and waiting for volunteers to click their way to Convention involvement. Please consider being a volunteer for Convention and/or Career Central.

We are looking forward to meeting you at the conference!

From: <http://convention.myacpa.org/boston/volunteer.php>

Question of the Month - Make your voices heard!

By [Jeannette Passmore](#)

Each month a question(s) will be posted in the newsletter and/or via the Commission [Listserv](#).

Please send your responses to jeannette.passmore@gmail.com by March 15, 2010. Sharing knowledge with other professionals is an important professional development and networking tool. Asking a simple question can be a great way to get a new conversation started with long-standing and new members!

- **When will you be arriving in Boston?**
- **What hotel will you be staying in?**
- **How can the Directorate members assist you in Boston?**
- **Will you be joining us for the Open Business Meeting?**
- **What are you most looking forward to?**

Commission Award Recipients

Please join the Commission for Commuter Students and Adult Learners along with the ACPA community in recognizing our colleagues at the Awards Ceremony on **Saturday March 20, 2010 5:00 to 7:00 P.M. in the Sheraton Hotel Constitution Ballroom AB.** *This is a free event, no ticket required.*

The Outstanding Commuter Program Award

This award will be given in recognition of an outstanding program or service that provides exceptional support to commuter students; represents a new and creative way to support commuter students or achieves outstanding results. Areas of consideration include, but are not limited to, cost-effectiveness, numbers of students served as percentage of population, and student participation in the planning and execution of the program or service.

Awarded To: Commuter-Resident Partnership Program

University of St. Thomas

For several years, the University of St. Thomas Commuter Center & Off-Campus Services, in collaboration with Residence Life, has operated the Commuter-Resident Partnership Program (CRPP), which pairs incoming first-year commuter students with a residence hall floor. These first-year commuters becoming honorary members of the floor's residential community through their participation in the program. As participants CRPP commuters are invited to all of the floor's events, receive all relevant e-mails from the Resident Advisor (RA) of the floor, and are provided with building access to the floor so that they can come and go from the community with ease.

Additionally, the RAs leading these floors are provided with additional training and supervision by the Commuter Center & Off-Campus Services Area Manager to ensure that they are conscientious of the needs and challenges of commuter students. This includes ensuring that the CRPP RAs are aware of scheduling challenges when planning programs, develop multiple methods for communicating with participating commuter students, and develop an awareness of the unique character of our first-year commuter population. CRPP RAs receive an additional stipend for their work with this program. Most CRPP participants indicate that the main reasons they enroll in the program are for more connections to St. Thomas and other first-year students. This program specifically targets first-year commuters as our institutional research has shown that they are a population at risk for low retention (while commuters represent a majority of our undergraduate population, they are only about 10% of the first-year population). This program is an effort to increase the possibility for these students to make connections to their peers and the institution.

[For more information on the other great nominees for Outstanding Commuter Program please visit the Commission Awards web page.](#)

ASU Off-Campus & Commuter Student Services Housing Fair—Arizona State University

Off-Campus & Commuter Student Services Commuter 101—Arizona State University

Off-Campus & Commuter Student Services Annual Thanksgiving Dinner—Arizona State University

Graduate Student Resource Fair—University of New Hampshire

Good Morning Huskies—Northern Illinois University

The Outstanding Adult Learner Program Award

This award will be given in recognition of an outstanding program or service that provides exceptional support to adult learners; represents a new and creative way to support adult learners or achieves outstanding results. Areas of consideration include, but are not limited to, cost-effectiveness, numbers of students served as percentage of population, and student participation in the planning and execution of the program or service.

Awarded To: Evening Weekend and Project Graduate Program

University of Kentucky

The Director of the Adult Student Services Office and Evening and Weekend is Ms. Cecile McKinney. She along with her assistant, Mr. Jerry Price have been instrumental in creating, implementing and promoting UK's Adult Student Services office. There have been several mission critical initiatives that have garnered great respect and

Commission Award Recipients

awareness not only across the campus but also at the state level through the Council on Postsecondary Education. One example is “Project Graduate” targeting students who left the University without completing their degrees. Through the excellent collaboration with Cecile and Jerry, many adult students have been able to reconnect with their academic colleges and advisors to complete their degrees. With the University of Kentucky mission to provide outreach and service to students – especially the adult learner, the attached press releases demonstrates this commitment. As individuals across the country are faced with many challenges related to the current economy, there has never been a more important time to serve our adult learners. Our goal, has been to provide streamlined services related to admission, registration, advising...all leading to graduation

[For more information on the other great nominees for Outstanding Adult Learner Program please visit the Commission Awards web page.](#)

Adult Learner Study Groups—Northeastern State University in Broken Arrow

The Outstanding Collaboration Award

This award will recognize a program or service that successfully incorporates a collaborative, campus-wide approach to serving commuter students and adult learners. Particular consideration will be paid to significant innovations in sharing of resources, funds and staff that cross academic, co-curricular and community boundaries.

Awarded To: Neighborhood Walkthrough

University of St. Thomas

Each year during the first week of class, the University of St. Thomas Undergraduate Student Government (USG), the University Relations Neighbor Liaison and the Commuter Center & Off-Campus Services work together to produce materials for our Neighborhood Students (students living in the immediate residential area surrounding the St. Paul campus) and then distribute them door to door to the students. These addresses are identified by the University Liaison, the volunteers solicited and coordinated by USG and the Commuter Center and the materials are developed by the Commuter Center with valuable input from the USG and Neighbor Liaison.

This past year, the materials produced and distributed shifted to a much more peer-to-peer message regarding living in the neighborhood, acting as a responsible citizen and neighbor, engaging with your neighbors and community, and making responsible choices. The materials also contained information about how to sign up for services like recycling in the neighborhood, as well as highlighted the resources and services provide by the university for neighborhood students. These services included the Commuter Center, Free Legal Advice, Renter's Education Efforts, and Off-Campus Housing Listings, to name a few.

This year over a dozen volunteers distributed materials to over 200 student properties. Additional materials are provided to students in the Commuter Center as needed. These volunteers included USG members, Commuter Advisors as well as other students simply volunteering their time and effort who were recruited by the offices involved. It's success was entirely dependent on effective collaboration between the offices involved, and it continues to be successful year after year.

[For more information on the other great nominees for Outstanding Collaboration please visit the Commission Awards web page.](#)

Adopt an ASU Family Program—Arizona State University

Pilot Party Registration Program—Colorado State University

The Commuter/Adult Learner Perspective by a Student Development Professional Award

This award recognizes the work of a higher education professional (in the field for under 5 years and 5 years plus) responsible for significant research, presentations, program development and outstanding leadership in promoting the commuter/adult perspective or providing educationally purposeful programming or services.

Awarded To: Jeannette M Passmore, Owens Community College

Jeanette started the NTSOnline website (www.ntsonline.com) with the goal of developing a comprehensive resource for student affairs professionals working with nontraditional students. The site has languished since May of

Commission Award Recipients

2009 but is now being refurbished with a new vision. It is impossible for one person to develop a comprehensive guide for such a diverse functional area within student affairs, especially one that works with an equally diverse student population. As the site is renovated the mission will be to provide as much knowledge as possible, but more importantly to provide a place to make connections to other professionals and organizations. Ideally other professionals will begin to contribute to the site and it will become a place for sharing information, best practices, and creating a professional and social network of resources.

There were no additional nominees for this award.

The Commuter/Adult Learner Perspective by a Student Award

This award recognizes the work of a student (undergraduate or graduate) responsible for significant research, presentations, program development and outstanding leadership in promoting the commuter/ adult perspective or providing educationally purposeful programming or services.

Awarded To: Ms. Susan Li, State University of New York at New Paltz

Ms. Susan Li entered as a transfer student coming from a community college in fall 2008. A supervisor at that college gave Susan her highest recommendation, and our development office luckily forwarded her on to me to look for a part-time job. After I hired her as a research assistant for my project, "Transfer Student Self-Reliance and Its Relationship to Adjustment and Academic Performance in the Millennial Transfer Student", and as a result of her own experiences, Susan saw the need for improving campus resources for all commuter and transfer students. She rekindled and is President of the Off Campus Student Union, creating a newsletter, a Face book Fan page, weekly text messages, and off-campus student socials. Due to the fact that we have no on-campus housing for transfer students, Susan helped me transform what was previously a "Q & A Pocket Guide" into a comprehensive Transfer Planner which was distributed to 1,000 transfer students last year. She also was hired to work with the graduate assistant in the office of Student Activities and Union Services, and promoted "Off Campus Student Appreciation Days", going into parking lots in the cold early mornings to give out free hot chocolate, hot cider, tea, coffee and cider donuts. Under her leadership, for the first time, the Off-Campus Student Union was invited to enter a team and participate in "Spirit Weekend" with the Residence Hall Student Association. The team won 2nd place for their Banner, 2nd place in the fundraiser 'penny wars', donating funds to "School Tools", a not-for-profit organization for students in need, and 3rd place for photo scavenger hunt. Susan organized an "Ask the Advisor" session with the office of Academic Advising; and is enthusiastic about an upcoming Veteran's Day letter writing campaign next week which is dedicated to veterans and soldiers serving overseas. In summary, Susan's dedication to the commuter student has built a foundation on our campus will continue to serve transfer and commuter students for years to

come.

There were no additional nominees for this award.

Enjoy celebrating outstanding programs and professionals? It is never too early to start thinking about programs and student affairs professionals to nominate for the 2011 Commission Awards. Get a taste of the celebration and collegiality by joining us at the Awards Ceremony this year.

Saturday March 20, 2010 5:00 to 7:00 P.M. in the Sheraton Hotel Constitution Ballroom AB. *This is a free event, no ticket required.*



Featured Directorate Member

By [Jeannette Passmore](#) & [Gerry Panelo Elizondo](#)

Gerry Panelo Elizondo will become the Chair of the Commission for Commuter Students and Adult Learners at the 2010 Commission business meeting which takes place Tuesday March 23, 2010 from 02:30 P.M. - 05:00 P.M. at the Boston Marriott Copley Place - MIT. Gerry is the Director of Student Affairs at [Carnegie Mellon Silicon Valley](#). The campus boasts a student population that is 100% commuter and adult learner students. As a student affairs generalist Gerry works directly with masters and Ph.D. students in all aspects of student life starting from their enrollment to the University up to graduation. She wears multiple hats as a liaison to Carnegie Mellon's main campus in Pittsburgh in regards to enrollment and student services, administrator with academic and curricular logistics, event manager with student events as Orientation and Graduation, and being an overall resource to students navigating their way through their academic program. Gerry was happy to share her responses to the following questions:

Why did you choose your career? In some ways, the career chose me! I caught the student affairs bug in undergrad while I was an RA when my supervisor at the time told me that I could work with students as a career. From that point on I was intent in learning more about what student affairs was and what I could do impact the lives of college students. I haven't looked back since and have enjoyed my work in various student affairs areas such as residence life, commuter affairs, student government, orientation and more!

What do you enjoy about your position? Working at a small branch campus, I love the opportunity to be a student affairs generalist while still operating within a large University context. Being a 100% commuter and adult learner campus, I enjoy working with this population in helping support their academic endeavors while being cognizant and sensitive to their multiple life roles.

Why did you choose to join the Commission? I joined the commission when I first joined ACPA in in graduate school as a way to connect my graduate assistantship work in the area of off-campus housing and commuter services to a larger network of colleagues who work in similar areas. In connecting with the Commission and also with the National Clearinghouse for Commuter Programs, I received great support not only in my graduate assistantship but also in the research I was doing in the area of commuter students of color.

How has ACPA and/or the Commission for Commuter students and Adult Learners influenced your professional development? Are there ways in which the Commission can better help you succeed? The Commission has been such a fantastic resource for me since day one. In addition to providing a network of resources and colleagues in my graduate career, I also found the Commission to be valuable in my first job out of graduate school - building a commuter resource office from the ground up! In growing a new Commuter Central office at Eastern Michigan University, I relied heavily on colleagues for their insight, knowledge and experience with such an endeavor. It was also at that time I furthered my involvement with the Commission by being a Directorate Member. I cannot emphasize enough how that experience as a Directorate Member fueled my excitement and involvement in commuter and adult learner advocacy both in my job and in my professional development. I gained a valuable network of colleagues and am thankful to continue my involvement my new role as Chair.

Can you play a musical instrument? Piano, though I'm pretty rusty.

Do you have any hobbies? Knitting and crocheting, logic puzzle games (Sudoku) and video games

Are you Right-handed or Left-handed? Right Handed

Where were you born? San Antonio, Texas

What's the most memorable class you've ever taken? It's a tie between "Introduction to Wine Making" and "Tractor Driving" at University of California, Davis (yes, it's an agriculture school!)

Do you want to know more about a particular Directorate Member? Know a great Commission Member that we should feature in an upcoming newsletter? Please send an email to Jeannette Passmore at jeannette.passmore@gmail.com.



Chair-Elect Gerry Elizondo and Directorate Member Laura Knudson speak share information about the Commission for Commuter Students and Adult Learners at the 2009 Convention Showcase.

Professional Development Opportunities

March 2010

4th - 5th

[College Personal Association of Kentucky and NASPA KY Conference](#)

Louisville, KY

19th

[MCPA Mock Interview and Convention Preparation Program](#)

University of Maryland, College Park campus

20th- 21st

[2010 Next Generation Conference \(Undergraduates only\)](#)

Boston, MA USA

20th- 24th

[ACPA Annual Convention 2010](#)

Boston, MA USA

22nd - 23rd

[A Veteran Symposium for Higher Education](#)

Louisville, KY

24th

[5th Annual Student Affairs Assessment Day](#)

University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC)

April 2010

11th - 13th

[Symposium for the Recruitment & Retention of Students of Color](#)

Omni Hotel - San Diego, CA

16th

[Student Learning: Building Student Affairs Capacity for Academic Collaboration](#)

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee



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DIRECTORATE

Please contact your directorate members with any questions, suggestions, or concerns!

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Research & Assessment
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Become Active on the Commission Listserv!

Listserv instructions: Login to your member profile at <http://www.myacpa.org>. Select "Manage Your Subscriptions" from the myRECORD section of the membership page. Scroll down Email Discussion list settings to verify that you are subscribed to the Commission for Commuter Students and Adult Learners list as a single or digest subscriber. Please note the email address you have associated with your account. You will need to send all listserv messages from that address.

Once you have verified and / or updated the list information you may send a message to the listserv using commuter_and_adults@lyris.acpa.nche.edu as the To: address.