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Hello everyone!

Thank you to those who have served on the Board up until now, giving of your time to invest in the development and value of this organization. I am appreciative of the work you've done, and I'm also excited to share a bit about my interest in serving on the AUCCCD Board.

I have been a member of AUCCCD since 2016, and prior to that was a part of ACCCCS while I was the Clinical Director at the University of Wisconsin – Madison. Like many of us, I never planned to be a Director. However, circumstances aligned for me to take on this role as a Co-Director and then Interim Director at UW-Madison – and I found I really enjoyed the challenge and complexity of the job. During the early phase of the pandemic, I had the opportunity to reset my path and priorities, and I realized that the complicated, sticky, meaningful, hard work of being a Director was something I continued to feel drawn to do. Since 2020 I've been the Director of Counseling Services at California Polytechnic State University (Cal Poly). I am grateful to have landed on the Central Coast of California at a mid-sized (22,000) state school with a team of professionals who care deeply about supporting students and one another.

Besides attending to the complex systems and individual aspects of mental health within a university context, one of the best parts of my role is finding community with other Directors here in California, and across the country. Because the Director role is not easy or straightforward, AUCCCD has helped me feel connected to others doing similar work – offering opportunities to consult about a difficult personnel issue, crowdsource information about a new trend, or find validation in a listserv thread. I have also been involved recently as a Mentor, and as a member of the Bylaws Committee and the group exploring the role of the Director and what support we might need to sustain this work. I hope to serve on the Board to ensure that healthy, supportive space exists for others to find deeper meaning and a more sustainable experience in this challenging role.

As a social worker, I tend to look at things from a systems perspective, considering a person within the context of their environment. Thinking holistically about students, staff, colleagues, administrators, and other stakeholders allows us to be inclusive, relevant, and better able to impact our communities effectively. I look forward to bringing this approach to Board meetings and responsibilities. I also recognize my privilege as white person. I seek to identify and

dismantle systems of oppression that are embedded in cultures and institutions - considering ways to use my voice to promote social justice and inclusion, and to also intentionally step back to make space for all voices to be heard and valued. I look forward to working with others whose identities are different from my own, learning from one another's lived experiences, and moving this organization ahead. My hope is that AUCCCD will be a place where every member finds belonging and support for their work as a Counseling Center Director, and where we collectively advocate for sustainable, effective pathways to address college student mental health.