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Colleagues,

For decades, AUCCCD has credibly influenced our field. We have leveraged our collective expertise, inside knowledge, and influence to compel our respective institutions to act. In recent years, some of us have been fortunate to grow our staffs and programs. Sadly however, these scattered increases have not kept pace with the ever-growing needs of students. Additional progress will require unvarnished truth telling.

72% of us are considering leaving our jobs despite our deeply rooted passion for the work (as reported in the 2021 AUCCCD annual survey). Our top 3 reasons were (1) the challenges at our institutions, (2) our lived experiences in the job, and (3) the growing scope of our responsibilities.

This data point ought to be publicly known and a central piece of the national conversation. It's a symptom of the much larger problem - the ever-widening chasm between student mental health needs and the unrealistic expectations placed on our understaffed centers to meet them. As individual directors standing in the gap, we have the optimal vantage point to articulate the problem. However, we need each other to solve it.

I believe AUCCCD can leverage its national stature to create and implement a strategic plan that illustrates like no other, the untenable challenges we face, and the bold actions needed to address them. A plan that collaborates with and integrates key findings, knowledge, and expertise with other stakeholder organizations (e.g., CCMH, IACS, ACHA, JED, the Steve Fund, NIRSA, NASPA, HEMHA, etc.) A plan that is inclusive, thoughtful, and DEI-focused in every way.

I appreciate the hard work and dedication of the board and of this organization in service to our students. While our AUCCCD story is rich and storied, I believe it's time to write our next chapter – we've been on this one for a while now.

I'm running for the board to be part of the solution; to shift the national conversation and to help individual directors. I am optimistic and hopeful for the days ahead, if for no other reason, for the creative, talented, and dedicated colleagues that have made AUCCCD what it is, and what it can become. Thank you for considering my candidacy.

I'm a licensed psychologist, have Tourette Syndrome, and am in my 8th year as a director (5th year at Michigan State University, and 3 years previously at Augusta University in Georgia). I also served as a staff psychologist and QPR suicide prevention coordinator at the Thomas E. Cook Counseling Center at

Virginia Tech. I completed my internship at the Counseling Center at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and was a doctoral practicum student at Counseling and Psychological Services at Penn State. I hold a Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology and B.S. in Psychology from Penn State and a M.A. in Counseling from Wake Forest University. My favorite title is "Dad."