



ACUI

Region III

NEWSLETTER

September 2020



JOIN THE FUN ONLINE
[@acuiregioniii](#)





Updates from our
**REGIONAL
DIRECTOR**

Greetings Region III Family,



I sincerely hope this letter finds each of you safe, in good health, and at peace. My time as Regional Director draws near and I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on the past two years. Many of you may not know this, but I almost did not submit my application for the RD position. In March of 2018, I was lucky enough to be serving on the 2018 Annual Conference team in Anaheim, California. We were mid-way through the conference and things were going well until I started noticing that my vision was starting to blur. I didn't think anything of it at first until I realized it wasn't improving and it was getting worse. I kept it quiet to not alarm my colleagues and let my mentor and then conference chair, Jennifer Hernandez, know of my situation and I immediately rushed to the nearest emergency room. As I made my way to the hospital, all I could think of was the worst possible scenarios and that the time had come. I was beginning to lose my sight.

I made it to the hospital and there was not much they could do and I was about two days away from flying back home to Florida. The flight back to Tampa and then eventually back to Miami felt like the longest stretch of time in my entire life. I finally made it home and rushed directly into the emergency room of my eye hospital. It was not long before the doctors told me that I had a retinal tear and that I needed to have emergency surgery right away. It was at that very moment where I once again felt a familiar feeling of hopelessness and despair. The doctors could not tell me if things were going to be ok until they were able to better see the problem in operation. The emotions that came flooding in were overwhelming and there were no other thoughts in my head other than I will never be able to see again. It didn't take long to prep me and in no time at all I was on the operating table. After the surgery I remember waking up to my doctors and my mom in my room waiting to tell me how the surgery went. The doctor shared that he was able to repair the tear and that I actually did not need as invasive of a surgery as he thought. More importantly, he shared with me that I would recover and my normal vision would return after a few weeks of healing. My prayers were answered and I was once again reminded of the power of prayer and hope. Why am I sharing this story?

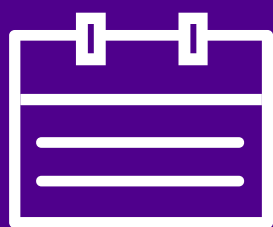
Well truth be told it was my surgeon who urged me to continue living my life and apply for the Regional Director position. He said you have already been through one surgery and you didn't give up then and you should not stop doing things you want to do now. So I took his advice, focused on my healing, and applied for the Regional Director position and here we are now. Two years later and it has been one of the most life-altering decisions I have ever made in my entire life. I was able to work with some of the most incredible individuals in this association on a number of meaningful initiatives, but the most unforgettable gift this volunteer role gave me was the platform to finally share my story to my family. After all I had been through, I could not let another year go by without telling my family who I really am and ACUI's Region III 2019 Conference gave me a vehicle to do so. So I took my surgeon's advice yet again and decide that I would come out as gay to my entire family during my opening remarks while they watched via Facebook live. I had finally done what I told myself for over 20+ years I would never do. I won't attempt to describe the feeling I had when I walked off the stage because no words would ever be able to truly capture it. All I can say is that I was finally at peace and ever since I finished my remarks, I now see the world so differently. I now see hope. Hope, that even in the darkest of times, there remains the possibility that things will eventually be ok.

So if you made it this far into the letter, I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for being a part of my journey towards self-discovery and hope. ACUI and the family within this association has done more for me than I can ever repay. I am whole, I love myself, and I am finally living as my true authentic self. What a gift it has been. Our association and members are currently navigating through incredibly difficult times and I am certain that many of you may have feelings of hopelessness and despair, especially my Black brothers and sisters. I write to you all today asking you to hold onto hope. As difficult as it may be, hold on to it. It took 27 years for me to find out that it gets better and that leads me to believe that our world will also get better someday. It will not be easy, but I will continue to do what I can and I hope that you will hang in there with me. In closing, I want to take a moment to welcome Alison Ward as your new Regional Director. Timing is everything and I truly believe Alison is the RD we need at this time and she will lead our region successfully through this unprecedented time. She is a passionate leader and I am beyond confident that she will accomplish great things with our region. Thank you again for the most amazing two years a person could ask for. Stay well, stay safe and remember to vote!

Warmest regards, Dwayne Isaacs



Region III congratulates and welcomes Alison
Ward, Regional Director-Elect, from
University of Tennessee- Knoxville



Mark your calendar for

UPCOMING EVENTS

In these "unprecedented times", ACUI has ramped up its online learning opportunities! There's a full calendar of seminars and institutes, as well as opportunities to connect regionally and virtually. Visit www.acui.org/events and www.acui.org/onlinelearning for details.



Rev. Dr. Jamie Washington



Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Series **Building Capacity to Create Anti-Racist Organizations**

October 14, 2020 1:30-3:30 p.m. eastern

Register at acui.org/onlinelearning

**Future event dates will be November 2,
December 7, January 11, and February 1.**

November Experience is a two-day event for Region III.

Day one, November 5, includes a business meeting at 3 p.m. eastern and a social at 4 p.m. eastern.

Day two, November 6, will include educational sessions, networking, a keynote speaker, awards and a virtual expo from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. eastern

For more information visit acui.org/regions/iii/region-iii-conference



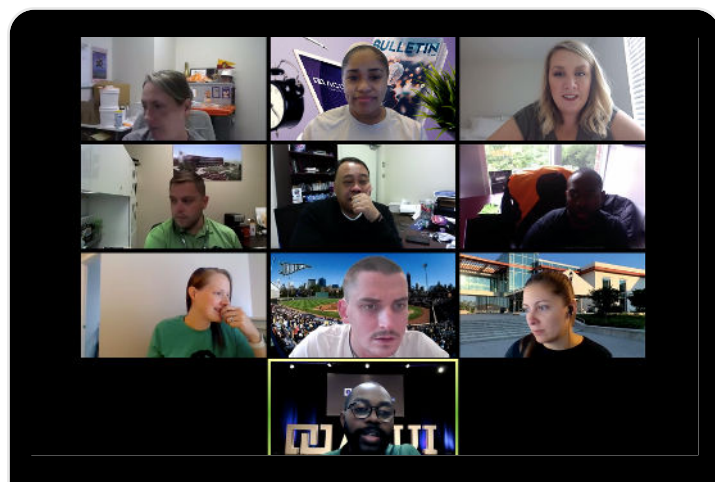


Updates from the 2020 Region III

NOVEMBER EXPERIENCE PLANNING TEAM

Get Excited About The November Experience 2020!

With the pandemic affecting everyone and everything, we had to put our plans on hold for our in-person regional conference at Emory University. After much feedback from our regional membership, we have reimagined our in-person conference into a virtual offering titled "The Region III November Experience."



The November Experience Planning Team has been working hard to create a 2-day virtual experience for you to connect with your colleagues and help build resiliency during these challenging times. On Thursday, November 5, we will have a business meeting at 3pm eastern and a social gathering at 4pm eastern - both events are free to attend! On Friday, November 6, we will have an amazing keynote, vendor expo, silent auction, a lunch networking session, two educational session blocks, and an awards and recognition closing. Some of the educational sessions will include the topics of social justice, student learning, facility management, organizational leadership, marketing and more! There will even be roundtable discussions about virtual programming and event planning.

The fees to attend are as follows:

- Students and retired professionals: FREE (an unlimited number of students and retired professionals can attend)
- Institutions: \$300 (an unlimited number of professional staff can attend)
- Individuals: \$75

The deadline to register is November 3, 2020.

For more information, visit our website (acui.org/regions/iii/region-iii-conference).

We hope to see you there!

Stan Sweeney, November Experience Coordinator

What's your funniest or most interesting quarantine purchase?

Erik Johnson, Georgia Institute of Technology
Conference Registration

I did buy a car during quarantine. I guess that's kind of a big deal, right?

Jackie Grinvalds, Emory University
Educational Sessions Co-Chair

I got this latch hook kit of a llama during quarantine. It's a sort of mindless activity I used to do as a kid and have enjoyed while listening to podcasts or audiobooks.

Jennifer Duncan, Agnes Scott College
Communications and Marketing

Skin care products that TikTok convinced me to buy.

Sara Cope, Vanderbilt University
Educational Sessions Co-Chair

A new house!



Meet Region III's

INCLUSIVITY COORDINATOR

Dear Region III,

As an organization we recognize the numerous injustices in this world, especially those targeted at communities and people of color and we are working to provide education, allyship and action towards bettering our community and making positive change. ACUI has made intentional guideposts to provide education to overcome racism and anti-blackness, and is prioritizing opportunities to provide resources and space that are actively anti-racist and and better structural racism. There is a team of passionate and dedicated professionals that are actively working towards providing a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Series that will kick off on October 14th.

The series aims to define and conceptualize key terms pertinent to anti-racism, increase knowledge and awareness of self, identity, culture, intersectionality, power, privilege and oppression, teach techniques to have honest and respectful dialogue about race, and understand institutional, systemic forces of classism, sexism, homophobia and systemic forms of oppression that intersect with racism. The kick off event will focus on anti-racism in action and will feature a guest speaker who will lead us in dialogue about why this topic needs to be discussed, how we as professionals can commit to work around anti-racism, and provide a call to action. In the coming days more information will be sent out about this series, but we encourage you and hope that you will join us in these conversations. Now more than ever is it so important to engage in these conversations, and continue to support each other and our students.



Sincerely,
Erin Parrish
ACUI Region III
Inclusivity Coordinator
enparris@uncg.edu



Check out these

REGION III OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteer

Looking to get involved? Serving as an ACUI volunteer is a great way to connect with peers at other institutions, build on skills, and grow as a professional! Various opportunities are posted throughout the year at <https://www.acui.org/volunteer/> . Short-term opportunities are also available on occasion for volunteers to assist with various Region III initiatives. Any questions about these opportunities can be directed to Emily Reynolds at reynoldse17@ecu.edu.

Nominate

Know of someone who advances campus community and would be a great addition to the ACUI volunteer roster? Nominate them here: <https://www.acui.org/volunteer/nominate>.



Connect

Look out for various opportunities on Region III social media to connect with other members. Looking to connect with a member at another institution? Check out the ACUI Directory and Communities of Practice!

**Would you like to be
featured in our
next newsletter?**

**Are you working on anything exciting
that you would like to share
with the region?**

Fun project on your campus?

**Research that you believe
will help colleagues?**

New programming idea?

Send it to us!

Please contact Communications Coordinator
Jennifer Duncan at jduncan@agnesscott.edu
with any questions.

AWARDS NOMINATIONS

We are pleased to announce 2020 Region III Awards nominations are open! Do you know someone who should be a recipient?

This is a time to show the region all the good things happening in your area. Nominate someone for a program today! There is a new award this year for Student Union/Campus Activities Virtual Program of the Year. Nominations will close September 30th! Apply now via the link below

<https://acuiforms.wufoo.com/forms/s17ihnz30yq6zg6>

COVID-19 Resources

<https://www.acui.org/resources/covid-19-resources>



COVID-19 is changing the world and impacting higher education. The ACUI resources online may assist you in navigating how to best serve your students and colleagues through this ever-changing situation.



Region III

STUDENT MEMBER

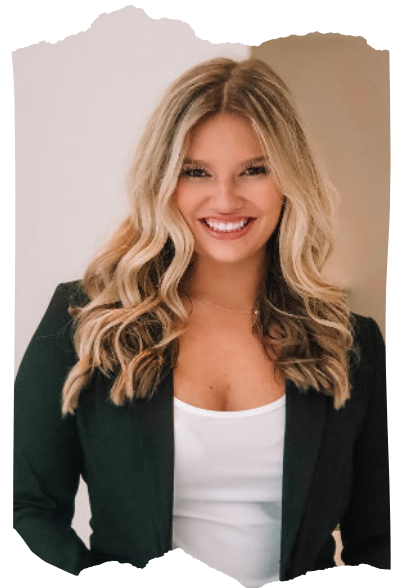
Katie Kronk, Mississippi State University

As a student member on the Regional Leadership Team, I can give the team insight from a student perspective. I am also able to help by making graphics, gathering info, and helping with events, and any other jobs that I can help get done. I have enjoyed getting to know everyone and getting to learn more about their positions. I admire each of the team leaders in how they have navigated during these uncertain times. They truly have the students' best interest at heart. Being an out-of-state student, it is nice to know that there are leaders that are looking out for us at our home away from home.

Like most students, I am still trying to figure out how to navigate success in unusual circumstances. With most of my classes being online I am having to practice time management more than ever before. There are a lot of things that I miss about school. Pre-covid, I miss seeing my friends in class, attending on campus events, and having a normal social life.

However, I know that if I dwell on these things, I will be miserable the rest of the semester. I am trying to have a positive mindset and enjoy the little things. I enjoy getting to spend more time at my house with my two roommates who double as my best friends. Pre-covid, I was so busy that I barely was home to even sit down and watch a TV show with them. I enjoy being able to watch lectures in my PJ's in the comfort of my cozy room. And I am surprisingly enjoying the challenge that is: letting go and just simply trusting that everything will work out, my planner self has needed to relax for a long time now! I encourage all college students to take advantage of the unknown, to get creative with virtual events, and most importantly, check in with yourself. Mental health is so important and simply Facetiming your friends and family can make a huge difference! Wishing the best to all my fellow college student's - we got this!

**Katie Kronk, Senior
Majoring in
Integrated Digital Marketing**





What's happening

WITH THE REGIONAL LEADERSHIP TEAM

What has everyone been binge watching?



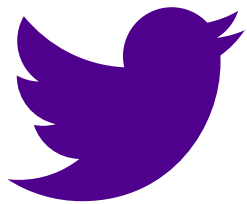
Christopher Hawkins,
Mississippi State University,
Student Involvement Coordinator



Alison Ward,
University of Tennessee - Knoxville,
Regional Director- Elect



Jennifer Duncan,
Agnes Scott College,
Communications Coordinator



REGION III'S Social Media @acuiregioniii

As we all know, technology that we have, use and need has become ever more important to use in our daily lives than ever before. I am fairly confident that some of you are responsible for the social media accounts for your facility and/or your department. When I first started as one of the communication coordinators in late 2018, I had my personal accounts, my Office of Student Life accounts at Coastal Carolina University and the Region III accounts with ACUI. Each of them has 3 accounts so I was somewhat overseeing 9 social media accounts, talk about a lot of notifications! If you are like me, you do not want to see the little number icon on your phone and must get rid of it/clear the notification.

Let us get back to our social media accounts with Region III. Now I challenge you, if you are not following us, follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. I will wait right now for you to click the like/follow...go ahead. I am glad you started to follow us even if it is with your personal accounts or your work accounts. Follow us on all of your accounts, personal and work, so you do not miss anything! There are going to be times ahead of this moment that we will need to inform you of a decision the regional leadership team has made and we will be posting or pushing it out on all of the social media accounts and the story feeds. An example I can give you is when we were planning our family fun night and we decided as the regional leadership team & planning members, to cancel it and talked about rescheduling the event. One of the first things we did was push this out on social media as well as asked our Central Office liaison to push out an email ASAP to all members. In addition, to everything above, we have featured some of the amazing regional leadership team members within the current regional leadership team. I hope when we pushed out their stories, you were able to take the time to learn something about them. Who knows, next time when we see one another, you could ask them something about their profile you saw and want to learn more.

On September 15, we featured our current regional director, Dwayne Isaacs, and had an informal interview and talk with him so you all can learn more about him. At the end of the day, within this region and within ACUI, we are one big family! I hope you started to follow us and share what we do because we are awesome people within this region and ACUI...including you!

Chris Adrian, Coastal Carolina University,

Communications Coordinator

