

ACADEMIC ADVISING ASSOCIATION



WHO WE ARE

The Eastern Washington University Academic Advising Association (EWU ACADA) is the primary organized group of professional and faculty advisors and student support personnel at Eastern Washington University. Benefits of EWU ACADA membership include regular meetings with a common advising community, professional development opportunities, fresh perspectives and networking. Anyone may attend EWU ACADA meetings, but only official members may vote in executive elections, make decisions about corporate bylaws or serve on the EWU ACADA executive committee.

LEADERSHIP TEAM

President: Mark Ward
Vice President: Sarah Kenney
Staff Representative: Edgar Montoya
Faculty Representative: Jason Durfee
Treasurer: Robert Riedel
Secretary: Vacant

THEORY INTO PRACTICE

You may have heard the buzz around campus regarding this thing called EAB. But do you know what it really is? EAB is a research and consulting firm based in Washington, D.C. With their roots in health care management, EAB works extensively in higher education, looking to improve the student experience and increase student success on many levels. EAB has many tools and technologies that can support colleges and universities. And here at EWU, we have a few.

My favorite EAB tool is called Navigate. EAB's Navigate is a student success management system (SSMS). Through EAB Navigate, EWU can combine technology, research and consulting to help us identify our most at-risk populations, coordinate cross-campus resources so students can find the help they need, and analyze the data that informs our decision making.

EAB Navigate is also a collaborative. There are more than 500 universities and colleges that use Navigate, participate in cutting-edge research, and share and build upon industry best practices. EWU is a part of this collaborative and benefits immensely from the insights of this group dedicated to the success of all students.

How can you get involved and be a part of the new direction of student success? Feel free to reach out to me or talk with the student success coordinator of your college. We have trainings and events you can participate in. And, we are more than happy to come to your office, departmental or unit meetings and share how EAB's Navigate can help us support our students. Please go to eab.com and create an account to access a wealth of information and research. All Eastern employees are now a part of this collaborative. Enjoy!

Gina Gendusa | Student Success Coordinator
Pronouns: she, her, hers | EWU Center for Academic Advising & Retention
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STUDENT THOUGHT

When I came to this school, I thought I knew what I wanted. I had a specific degree I was dead set on and a career path in mind. It didn't matter that EWU was hundreds of miles away from my family, or that all I knew about college were things I had seen on TV and in movies. It didn't matter because this was the place I needed to be to make my dream a reality. I thought I knew what I wanted. I was wrong.

While I was taking my BACRs, or as they were called back then, GECRs, I noticed a pattern within myself. I wasn't as interested in the classes I was taking as

I thought I should be. But I wasn't about to give up on my dream because things were harder than expected. So I decided to continue in my major, and explore my options too.

I went to the career center. I asked other students what classes they enjoyed. I took a class a professor said I might like. I talked through my options with my advisor, I even made an appointment to talk to a faculty advisor in fields I was interested in.

After considering my options, I decided that the best thing I could do for myself would be to change majors. With the support of various advisors, and on-campus resources, I was able to confidently make the transition

from chemistry to criminal justice. My experience is not unique. In fact, it's pretty common for students to change their majors several times over the course of their academic career. That doesn't make it any less stressful for students when they are going through the process. Support from undergraduate advisors, faculty advisors, and campus resources can make that process a lot less stressful.

On behalf of all of the students out there who have made the leap between majors, I say thank you. Without your support, I know I wouldn't be where I am today.

Clover Loehr, '18
Current MASW Student

DEPARTMENT UPDATE: C.A.M.P.

The College Assistance Migrant Program (C.A.M.P.) is a federally funded program designed to support students from migrant and seasonal farm working backgrounds during their first year of college. Each year, C.A.M.P. serves 45 students who come from migrant and seasonal farm working backgrounds. The C.A.M.P. Program has two main goals. Having students finish their first year, and continuing at our university for year two and beyond. We accomplish these goals by exposing our students to career development, tutoring and mentoring.

The program also provides students with financial assistance and support services such as academic advising, and a C.A.M.P. seminar course to help C.A.M.P. students with transitioning from high school to college. C.A.M.P. is granted funding for up to five years, and since 2014, C.A.M.P. has been helping students at EWU achieve their personal, academic and career goals.

The program also exposes students to different social and cultural activities. Many students within the program grow up in small rural communities and several of these student aren't exposed enough to interactive activities and social interactions with different ethnicities and backgrounds. C.A.M.P. helps with broadening their viewpoints. As a reminder the term migrant has no ethnic tie to it; the program welcomes students from different walks of life, as long as they qualify by having a seasonal-labor background.

Four professional staff have firsthand experience in migrant, seasonal labor: Jennifer Nunez, program director; Edgar Montoya, retention specialist; Nubia Ramirez, outreach specialist and Brenda Gutierrez, program assistant. These staff members help students meet the program requirements and provide the best services possible for these students to succeed.

Please join us in our Winterfest event from 4-6 p.m., Friday, Nov. 30, in Tawanka 215 a/b/c and meet our cohort #5 students as they wrap up their first term here at EWU.

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WANT TO SHOWCASE ADVISING IN YOUR DEPARTMENT?

If you would like to spotlight staff or faculty who advise in any capacity, share updates about your department, or share reflect on best practices in advising, submit a piece for next quarter's newsletter! All submissions will need to be around 300 words and preferably include an image. The submission deadline for next quarter will be Feb. 15 at 12 p.m. Submissions can be sent to ewuacada@ewu.edu.

