Coalition Building: Advising Administrators as Change Agents

**Coalition: an alliance for combined action**

A unified voice is a powerful tool, and academic advising is no exception. In the quest to create efficient advising cultures, the biggest obstacles can sometimes be fragmented systems and departments. When we are reliant on campus partners for systems and processes that embody the administrative side of the profession, how do we make our voices heard? How can we join with colleagues to streamline processes, ensuring our advisors have efficient systems and students have optimal experiences? This panel, featuring two previous NACADA presidents and administrators from both university and community college settings, will look at how advising administrators can come together to enact impactful changes by creating coalitions, collaborating on shared goals, and identifying campus allies. Participants will be encouraged to reflect on their own experiences and consider a path for becoming change agents at their institutions.

Coalition-building goes beyond forming collegial relationships and can become the mechanism by which advising administrators can become change agents. Panelists will speak to:

- The structures that exist at their institutions that provide advising directors opportunities to collaborate
- How advising is viewed at their schools by university administration
- When is the support of the university needed vs when can efforts be led by directors
- Ways in which they, as directors, have built coalitions and become change agents
- The campus collaborations that have proven most effective/fruitful
- The biggest challenges to building coalitions

There will be time for Q&A when attendees will have the chance to ask panelists specific questions and get suggestions for coalition-building at their institutions.