

Staff to lead participants at national conference into the 'W.I.L.D.'

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Two Alfred University (AU) administrators hope to get participants at the upcoming National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) Region II conference to go “W.I.L.D” with their programming.

Mark McFadden, director of AU&s Career Development Center (CDC), and Ana Devlin Gauthier, coordinator of the University&s Judson Leadership Center (JLC), will present a session highlighting the University&s W.I.L.D. (Wilderness, Immersion, Learning, Discover) efforts during NASPA&s Region II conference at George Washington University, Washington, D.C. June 7-9.

McFadden and Gauthier will discuss “Leadership in the Wild,” covering the theory and research behind the positive impact of students actively engaged with the outdoors. AU&s rural location along with its strong history of leadership development led to a unique outdoor leadership program, formed in spring 2011. Conference participants will learn how they too can develop or improve outdoor leadership programs on their own campuses.

As director of the CDC, McFadden serves as a liaison to the AU College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, manages all career counseling training, the Graduate School Fair, CDC workshops, and Teacher Recruitment Day. He holds a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Pittsburgh-Johnstown and a master of professional studies in community service administration from AU.

As coordinator of the JLC, Gauthier oversees the Women&s Leadership Center, The Gary Horowitz Leadership Development Program, Saxon Sidekicks First-Year Mentoring Program, and AU&s chapter of Omicron Delta Kappa, the national leadership honor society. She graduated from AU with a bachelor of arts degree in environmental studies and earned a master&s degree in student affairs in higher education at Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

NASPA fosters the development, health, and sustainability of the student affairs profession by offering professional development, policy advocacy, and practice-informing research to professionals within the student affairs field.

Founded in 1919, NASPA includes members in all 50 states, eight U.S. territories, and 25 countries. The organization serves vice presidents and deans of student life as well as staff working in residence life, student unions and activities, counseling, career development, orientation, enrollment management, racial and ethnic minority services, and retention and assessment.