

ORGANIZATIONS FOR STUDENT PERSONNEL WORKERS

An Annotated Listing of Associations Which Can Help Professionals in Two-Year Colleges

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There are over thirty national student personnel organizations in the United States that serve the general and special needs of student personnel workers in higher education. Because of the rapid growth and development of student personnel work in higher education, it is imperative that student personnel workers align themselves with several national organizations as a means of keeping up with new developments. Yet, junior college student personnel workers have, for the most part, ignored the professional organizations. A survey of twenty-six national student personnel organizations, conducted by the writer in the fall of 1965, revealed that half of the organizations had a junior college membership of less than 1 per cent. Six of these organizations had no junior college members.

The thirty-plus national higher education student personnel organizations available to junior college student personnel workers offer a variety of excellent services for members. For a very nominal membership fee members receive excellent journals, placement services, research studies, special publications, and consultant services. Conferences, conventions, workshops, and seminars are provided annually by all of the organizations. In addition, organizations represent the concerns of their members to the legislatures, to federal agencies, to faculty members and college presidents, and to the public.

While the professional organization can contribute a great deal to the development of its members, members also have a responsibility for the development of the profession. Junior college student personnel workers need to become involved in the professional controversies. They need to let their views be known through participation in programs and as members of committees. They need to seek offices and contribute articles to professional journals. In short, junior college student personnel workers need to become senior partners in the activities of the national organizations and they would be welcome. As Raines indicated in the *February Journal*, "Professional associations are recognizing the need for strengthening junior college student personnel programs and are combining their resources to bring about improvement."¹

At the 1966 AAJC convention in St. Louis, the Student Personnel Commission, recognizing the importance of professional membership for junior college student personnel workers, recommended that an active program be initiated to inform junior college student personnel workers of the importance of national student personnel organizations and to encourage them to join.

The following information concerning professional organizations appropriate for junior college student personnel workers is summarized from (1) a survey by the writer, (2) a survey by Dean Eugene Curtis of Wenatchee Valley College, (3) a report by Dean Thomas Emmet of the University of Detroit, and (4) the *Directory of Student Personnel and Related Organizations in Colleges and Universities*:²

Organizations with special committees on the junior college:

1. *American College Personnel Association*: Interested in all phases of student personnel work in higher education and a must for junior college student personnel workers. It has close liaison with AAJC's Student Personnel Commission.

2. *American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers*: Promotes development of admissions, registration, records, financial aid, and institutional research. It issues many publications and offers institutional membership.

3. *Association of College Unions—International*: Promotes the development of the union as the community center of the campus. A.C.U.I. recognizes the importance of the union for the commuting student.

4. *National Council of College Publications Advisers*: Aims to elevate standards for the effective guidance of the student press.

5. *National Association of Women Deans and Counselors*: Interested in all phases of student personnel work. The association has special interest in education as it refers to women in their changing roles in society and the implications for counseling. N.A.W.D.C. includes members from elementary and secondary schools.

6. *National Vocational Guidance Association*: Concerned with vocational and educational planning.

Members include representatives from secondary schools, colleges, government and private agencies, business and industry. This group should be of particular interest to the junior college student personnel worker.

7. *Association for Counselor Education and Supervision*: Interested in the development of counselor education and supervision in order to improve counseling and personnel services at all levels. It has developed recent interest in the professional preparation of junior college student personnel workers. Membership is limited mostly to professors of counselor education.

Additional organizations important for junior college student personnel workers:

1. *Evening Student Personnel Association*: Fosters and implements student personnel programs in evening colleges and strives for greater understanding of the evening student and his problems.

2. *National Association for Foreign Student Affairs*: Focuses attention on the specialized responsibilities of those who work with foreign student advisers, teachers of English as a foreign language, and administrators of international education programs. It has an extensive field service program.

3. *College Placement Council, Inc.*: Encourages and assists in the advancement of college recruiting and placement. The council coordinates seven regional associations and is interested in junior colleges but no junior colleges seem to belong.

4. *Association of College Admissions Counselors*: Provides information and maintains standards for those engaged in guidance and admissions work for the college student. It offers institutional membership; secondary schools also hold membership. This association will probably become more interested in junior college transfer problems.

5. *Orientation Directors' Conference*: An annual conference to exchange ideas on orientation. There is no formal organization.

6. *American Psychological Association—Division of Counseling Psychology*: Interested in vocational guidance, psychological measurement, and personal development. There are few, if any, junior college members, but the division is very much interested in junior college student personnel programs.

7. *National Association of Student Personnel Administration*: Interested in all phases of student personnel work. Institutional membership is offered.

8. *American College Health Association*: Promotes health in its broadest aspects for all members of the college community. A.C.H.A. is interested in junior colleges and is considering the establishment of a special committee on junior colleges.

Specialized organizations that may be of interest to junior colleges:

1. Conference of Jesuit Student Personnel Administrators

2. National Association of College and University Traffic and Security Directors

3. Association of College and University Housing Officers

4. American Rehabilitation Counseling Association

5. Student Personnel Association for Teacher Education

6. National Association of College and University Chaplains and Directors of Religious Life

7. Association for the Coordination of University Religious Affairs

8. Administrators of College and University Counseling Centers.

Two major organizations not mentioned in the above listing serve as coordinating agencies for a number of the associations. The American Personnel and Guidance Association includes a number of the organizations listed, and members of these organizations are members of A.P.G.A. as well. The Council of Student Personnel Associations in Higher Education also includes a number of the organizations listed but individuals do not hold membership in C.O.S.P.A.

The growth and development of professional organizations in student personnel has been phenomenal in the past decade and reflects the growth and development of student personnel work as an important part of the higher education process. These organizations have evolved in response to the needs of student personnel workers to plan and implement more effective service programs for students. As junior college student personnel programs continue to expand and grow, the student personnel workers who staff these programs must turn to the professional organizations for guidance and leadership. Through membership junior college student personnel workers can learn of new ideas and developments to enhance their programs. Without membership the junior college student personnel worker is cut off from the mainstream of student personnel work in higher education, and his student personnel program must necessarily be limited to his own local vision.

¹ Raines, Max R. "The Student Personnel Situation," *Junior College Journal*, 36:5; February 1966, pp. 6-8.

² Winbigler, H. Donald, editor. *Director of Student Personnel and Related Organizations in Colleges and Universities*, published by National Association of Student Personnel Administrators, September, 1965.