

Candidate Statement

David Walden, Ph.D.

Hamilton College

Hi everyone! It's a pleasure to be running for another term on the Board, and it would be an honor to continue serving the AUCCCD community. In my time on the Board, I have co-authored our last position paper (Navigating a Path Forward), am coauthoring a new position paper on the Essential Roles that Counseling Centers play in higher education, have helped to develop a New Director Curriculum as co-chair of the Director Development Committee, and have presented at numerous conferences on the Crisis Narrative & the Broadening of Mental Health. I also help to plan and sometimes host the New York (CCNY) and North East (NECCCD) conferences. Phew! I love engaging with our community in these ways because we are clearly at a turning point in our field, where the old ways of doing business just aren't working anymore. Burnout is at an all-time high, demand for our services is skyrocketing, and we are all feeling the pressure. My focus has been to create more breathing room for the very important and connected work we do. I love college counseling and have worked in higher education for 25 years.

My goal, and my focus should I be able to continue working on the Board, is to help address the narratives and pressures we feel- from the crisis narrative to the broadening of that phrase "mental health"- in ways that create a more sustainable and healthy future. I would be honored to receive your vote, and promise to continue to bring both heart and strategic vision to our collective efforts. Thank you for considering me for a second term on the Board and I'm sending all of us a little love and support as we navigate these very hard jobs.