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A Letter from the President April 2019

NOSS is moving forward, and by working together, we **will be successful**.

I can't believe that it has already been a month since we were in Atlanta, but yet,

here we are. What a whirlwind it has been. Since the conference in Atlanta, the NOSS Board has been working diligently to move the organization forward, and I am happy to announce that **we are almost official**. We have received the “ok” to start operating under the National Organization for Student Success name.

There are a few more steps to take to make us 100% official, but we are very close to being done. Additionally, the Rebranding Committee has completed the Toolkit, and we have sent it to chapter presidents to help with their transition. I invite you to take a stroll around our social media accounts and website as they are also changing.

Lastly, we need to hear from you. We need your opinions, your ideas, and in particular, how NOSS can support you. Don't hesitate to reach out.

Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much ~ Helen Keller

President's Thoughts: Data Collection and Analysis

I am currently getting my doctoral degree from Ferris State University in Higher Educational Leadership. As a part of my program, I am taking a qualitative research class where I am growing in my understanding of what that entails. Taking this course has led me to think about data collection and analysis along with its impact on our work.

I believe data is one of the tools we have to tell our story. By using both qualitative and quantitative data, we can tell a strong and compelling story of our impact on a student's journey. Whether it be their journey through a developmental education program, a First-Year Experience program, or a holistic advising program, we can use data to understand what worked or adjust what didn't. Why is this important? Because in many cases, we are not the decision-makers on what we provide to students.

Legislators and governing bodies are a part of life. As educators in higher education, our work is impacted by those who must make decisions on a large scale. In particular, I am thinking of Arizona and Texas where legislators have introduced and passed legislation impacting how underprepared students are served.

Collecting data has never been more important. Why? Because we can use it to determine and define student success, to understand if our programs are working, as well as to create or eliminate programs. More importantly, though, we can use it to support the work we do to those who make decisions on a macro scale. We must know our own data before we can speak with decision makers.

Data, simply put, is another word for information. We need to be armed with information about our programs so that we

1. can complete an unbiased evaluation of our programs,
2. can develop an understanding of how decisions made by lawmakers might impact our programs,
3. are able to share and present on our program successes to decision-makers, and
4. become the experts of our work.

In essence, no one can speak to the success of your program better than you. I urge all of you to collect your data, know your story, and share it; the more vocal we are about our successes, the more we are heard.

NOSS Registration

Moving forward also means that we are changing things about the conference, and I am happy to announce that **NOSS Registration is OPEN for Nashville!!!**

44th Annual Conference of the National Organization for Student Success March 4-7, 2020 – Nashville, Tennessee

Early Registration opened April 1, 2019.

Regular Registration opens November 16, 2019

Denise Lujan
President, National Organization for Student Success

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