



2025 Award Winners

Awards Committee

Francesca Reed - Neumann University

Tanith Fowler Corsi - Hood College

Ryan Taughrin - University of Buffalo

Melaine Steele - Ursuline College

Jennifer Sayre - Bowling Green State University

Graduate Education Research Grant Gold Winner

The Graduate Student Enrollment Management Research Grant is designed to encourage emerging knowledge and understanding of the complexities of graduate enrollment management, including all aspects of admissions and recruitment, enrollment, retention, and graduation in higher education.

The 2025 Graduate Education Research Grant Gold Award is awarded to **Donna Su**



Donna Wang Su (she/her/Ms.) serves as Associate Director of Graduate Admissions & Financial Aid at Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism, Media, Integrated Marketing Communications in Evanston, Illinois. Since joining Northwestern in 2006, she has held various roles that have consistently intersected with finance and technology. Prior to her career in higher education, Donna worked in corporate finance at a sports agency following her graduation from the University of California, Santa Barbara. While maintaining a full-time position at Northwestern, Donna part-time earned a Master's degree in Public Policy & Administration, complemented by graduate certificates in business leadership, higher education, and diversity, equity, and inclusion. Currently, she is an executive doctoral student at the University of Pennsylvania, focusing her research on graduate student loan debt and financial value transparency in higher education. In addition to her administrative role, Donna has taught as an adjunct lecturer, leading courses such as "Startup Finance for the Gig Economy" at Northwestern University. She has also contributed as a guest speaker and panelist on financial education and technology in classrooms, conferences, and publications. Beyond her professional endeavors, Donna is an elected school board member for Evanston/Skokie District 65 and serves on the board of directors for a local nonprofit supporting the Evanston Asian, South Asian, Pacific Islander American community. In her personal time, she enjoys running, playing basketball, traveling with her two teenage children, and occasionally indulging in bourbon tastings.

Graduate Education Research Grant Silver Winner

The Graduate Student Enrollment Management Research Grant is designed to encourage emerging knowledge and understanding of the complexities of graduate enrollment management, including all aspects of admissions and recruitment, enrollment, retention, and graduation in higher education.

The 2025 Graduate Education Research Grant Silver Award is awarded to **Amanda Bosque**



Amanda Bosque serves as the Director of Admissions at the University of Alabama at Birmingham's School of Public Health. With over 16 years of experience in Graduate Enrollment Management, Amanda plays a pivotal role in overseeing graduate admissions within the School of Public Health. In her role, she manages the domestic and international graduate admissions process for a diverse range of programs, including

multiple master's, doctoral, and certificate programs, as well as 14 coordinated programs. In addition to her admissions responsibilities, she manages the school's scholarship program, which include 35 different endowed scholarships available to students annually.

Amanda is currently working on her Master of Science in the Higher Education Administration program at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, where her research is focused on the resources and support systems essential for the success of graduate public health students, with a particular focus on the evolving needs of an increasingly online learner population. As a first generation undergraduate and graduate student herself, she is also passionate about first generation student success.

Future Leader Award

The Future Leader Award is presented to an individual who has clearly exhibited leadership qualities and an enthusiasm for the graduate enrollment management (GEM) profession that distinguishes them as a rising leader in NAGAP and the field.

The 2025 Future Leader Award goes to **Sabrina Brown**



Sabrina Brown serves as the Director of Graduate Recruitment at UNC Charlotte, bringing over 15 years of experience in higher education enrollment and student support. A proud alumna of UNC Charlotte, she earned her Bachelor of Arts in English before pursuing a Master of Education in Counselor Education: Student Affairs from Clemson University. She later expanded her expertise by earning an MBA from Tennessee Technological

University and is currently pursuing a Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership at Tennessee State University.

Passionate about the transformative power of education, Sabrina is dedicated to connecting students with opportunities that align with their aspirations while advocating for inclusivity and equitable access. Throughout her career, she has played a pivotal role in shaping graduate enrollment strategies, fostering student success, and supporting initiatives that promote diversity in higher education.

In addition to her professional work, Sabrina is actively involved in the National Association for Graduate Enrollment Management and its Southeastern Chapter. She also serves as board secretary for the Youth Development Initiative, Inc. based in Charlotte, North Carolina, reinforcing her commitment to mentorship and community engagement.

In her free time, she enjoys exploring the world, attending live events, and spending time with her family, friends, and cat, Riley.

Chapter Leader Award

The NAGAP Chapter Leader Award is presented to a current or past NAGAP chapter board member who has demonstrated a commitment to the success of their chapter community, connections between members, and strengthened chapter communications with the NAGAP leadership. The Chapter Leader Award recipient is known for exemplary service to the graduate education community

The 2025 Chapter Leader Award goes to **Victor Lopez**



Victor Lopez is a dedicated higher education leader committed to expanding access and enhancing professional education. Since joining Baylor University in December 2020, he has served as the Assistant Director for Professional Education and Extended Learning Initiatives, where he plays a pivotal role in developing innovative programs that support student success.

first-generation college graduate, Victor holds a Bachelor of Science in Emergency Administration & Planning ('16) and a Master of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies with concentrations in Higher Education, Educational Psychology,

and Management ('19) from the University of North Texas (UNT). A He is also a recipient of the Graduate Certificate in College Teaching ('24) from Texas A&M University, where he is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Educational Administration. His research focuses on online education, student persistence, retention and completion, mentorship, and adult learning. Victor began his career in higher education as an Admissions Officer at UNT, leading high-caliber and minority recruitment efforts in undergraduate admissions. He later transitioned to the UNT Health Science Center in Fort Worth, Texas, serving as the Recruitment and Outreach Coordinator for the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences.

Currently serving as President of the Texas Association of Graduate Admission Professionals (TxGAP)—a regional chapter of NAGAP, the Leader in Graduate Enrollment Management—Victor has led transformational initiatives. Under his leadership, TxGAP has reinvented its summer conference, established annual awards, increased revenue, and launched regional professional development days, strengthening its impact across Texas.

Driven by a passion for education, innovation, and student success, Victor advocates for graduate enrollment management and professional education, ensuring that students and professionals have the resources and opportunities to thrive.

Promotion of Excellence Award

The Promotion of Excellence Award is presented to an individual or team that has developed or implemented methodology (e.g., processes, policies, events, technologies) demonstrating best practices, creativity, and/or innovation in graduate enrollment management that could serve as a model across the GEM profession.

The 2025 Promotion of Excellence Award goes to **Mike Nazareth**



Mike Nazareth is a higher education administration professional in recruiting, admissions and enrollment with over thirty three years of experience. He is currently the Director of Graduate Recruiting and Undergraduate Research in the Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering at the University of Florida.

Previously, he was the inaugural Director of Graduate Recruiting in the College of Engineering at University of Michigan. Mike Founded and Manages ENGINE. ENGINE is the Engineering National Graduate Institutional Name Exchange. ENGINE, achieved it's 10th anniversary in Fall 2024, exchanging ~16,000 student records between 87 Colleges/Schools of Engineering and Computing to encourage Master's and Ph.D. enrollment. His successes with name exchanges among other graduate recruiting strategies have led to enrolling the most academic and diverse Ph.D. cohorts in College of Engineering history at both University of Florida and University of Michigan. Mike holds a Bachelor's degree from Boise State University in mathematics, secondary education and Master's coursework from University of Idaho in higher education administration.

Visionary Award

The Visionary Award is presented to an individual in the higher education community who has demonstrated unique vision in the graduate enrollment management (GEM) profession. The individual should be an established leader who has developed and executed innovative strategy or led bold, cutting-edge, and successful initiatives that have influenced their own campus, university system, or the GEM community at large.

The 2025 Visionary Award goes to **Julie Collins**



Julie Collins serves as the Assistant Dean in the Office of Graduate Admissions and Financial Aid at Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism, Media, Integrated Marketing Communications (Evanston/Chicago, Illinois). She has also worked in the graduate admissions and financial aid offices at the Kellogg School of Management (business) and the Chicago Financial Aid Office at Northwestern University. Before working in higher education, Julie worked in museum education at

Chicago's Field Museum of Natural History and Northwestern University's Block Museum. Julie holds degrees in Political Science (BA) and International Relations (MA) both from Western Illinois University, and Educational Leadership (Ph.D.) from DePaul University. The title of her dissertation is, *Dissertation: Othermothering by African American Women in Higher Education at Predominantly White Institutions: How the Practice Affects Their Professional and Personal Lives*. Which led her to pen the Op-Ed, *Leading in Higher Education as an African American Woman during COVID-19* for Samuel DeWitt Proctor Institute for Leadership, Equity, and Justice. Julie's research interests include underrepresented students access to education, global education, and leadership development with a focus on women of color. Julie is in her second, and final, year on the Duolingo English Test Graduate Admissions Advisory Board and for the past year serves as the Chair. She has presented her research at higher education, admissions and financial aid conferences.

For fun Julie enjoys reading (no fantasy or romance!), attending live concerts, baking bread, lying on the beach, and traveling and if family and friends are involved, even better.

Distinguished Service Award

The Distinguished Service Award is NAGAP's most prestigious award and is presented to an individual who has contributed progressive leadership and exceptional service to the association and to the GEM profession.

The 2025 Distinguished Award goes to **Andrew Kim**



Andrew Kim is the Director of Graduate Enrolment Services in the School of Graduate Studies at Memorial University in Canada and has over 21 years of experience in higher education administration. In his current role, Andrew oversees academic and student services for around 4,500 graduate students across five campuses at Memorial.

Andrew has been a NAGAP member since 2011. He founded NAGAP's Canadian chapter in 2012 and was the first chapter President from 2012 to 2014. This was

NAGAP's first international chapter. He served on the NAGAP board of directors from 2016 to 2022, initially as a director-at-large from 2016 to 2018 and he was then elected as treasurer for two terms from 2018 to 2022. He was reappointed as NAGAP treasurer in 2024. While on the NAGAP board, Andrew drafted NAGAP's internationalization plan in 2018 for 2018-2020 which included as outcomes recruiting more international members (including committee members), creating linkages with international professional associations (such as NAFSA and CAGS), enabling joint presentations and cross-conference participation with international partner associations, and integrating more IEM content in PDF offerings.

From 2015 to 2017, Andrew also served as director-at-large for the Canadian Association for Graduate Studies (CAGS). Andrew was the recipient of the AACRAO SEM Award of Excellence (2011), NAGAP Promotion of Excellence Award (2013), and CAGS/ETS Award for Excellence and Innovation in Enhancing the Graduate Student Experience (2010 and 2013). He has presented on GEM best practices at numerous higher education conferences in Canada and the US, including AACRAO, NACADA, ARUCC, and CAGS.