

The National Association of Student Personnel Administrators, NASPA, held a joint regional conference between IV-West and IV-East in St. Louis from November 14-17. These combined regions consist of 17 states and 3 Canadian Provinces. The core of NASPA's mission is to provide professional development for educators, administrators, and striving undergraduate/graduate students interested in student affairs. The conference offered a wide range of developmental workshops that focused on key issues and themes in today's Higher Education system.

Hoang Do, a first semester Graduate Student in Northeastern State University's Higher Education Leadership program, was the only student representative from NSU. Hoang is a Graduate Assistant for the Graduate College. The assistantship is part of a pilot collaborative between the Graduate College, Higher Education Leadership program, and Student Affairs. The Collaborative is designed to provide experimental and immersive learning opportunities for graduate students in relevant leadership positions.

During the conference Hoang helped facilitate a two-day SALT/NUFP, Student Affairs Leaders of Tomorrow and NASPA Undergraduate Fellows Program, workshop that introduced the Student Affairs profession.

Aside from his involvement with SALT and NUFP, Hoang chose to participate in a case study competition. There was a total of five teams competing in his case study "Boys Will Be Boys" and each team is comprised of a maximum of four members that could be determined either by a preregistration or random placement. Each team was given roughly a day to prepare their 10 minute. Hoang's team consisted of 3 random colleagues from 3 different institutions: Tegra Straight, Carleton College; Amber Isom, Fort Hays State University; and Alaina Porter, Truman State University.

The team's approach in the case study was DSU, Deepening Student Understanding, where they chose a restorative justice platform. The group amassed a wide variety of sources that consisted of two restorative justice books, a student development theory book, and a psychology article that focused on the argument of "boys will be boys." Team DSU was able to utilize each member's skill sets, knowledge, and experience to accumulate their strategic plan to the scenario presented. During the NASPA's closing brunch, Team DSU was awarded 1st place in the case study competition receiving applause and recognition from their peers and colleagues.