So, why get involved in professional organizations as a professional or graduate student? “Networking, networking, networking” might be the short answer, whether you are an introvert or an extravert. However, organizations such as those outlined below can contribute to your education, your professionalization, and your own personal development as well. Active membership, or even just following listereds and attending periodic conferences, can be a great way to stay abreast of current best practices, trends, and news in your field, while getting acquainted with the language and “tacit knowledge” of student personnel and career counseling work.

**NATIONAL**

**Alumni Career Services Network (ACSN):** [http://www.alumnics.org/](http://www.alumnics.org/)
The Alumni Career Services Network (ACSN) supports alumni career services professionals at colleges and universities throughout the nation in enhancing their professional and personal development through shared knowledge and peer networking. Collectively, the ACSN seeks to increase awareness of alumni career services as a profession and to facilitate interaction amongst alumni career services professionals.

**American Association of Higher Education and Accreditation (AAHEA):** [http://www.aahea.org](http://www.aahea.org)
The American Association for Higher Education and Accreditation (AAHEA) based in Washington, DC, with locations in several states, is the oldest association in the United States dedicated to the advancement of higher education. We aspire to be the organization that best enables all individuals, institutions, and stakeholders in higher education to learn, organize for learning, and contribute to the common good. American Association for Higher Education & Accreditation, Inc (Formerly AAHE), is the oldest association in the United States dedicated to the advancement of higher education.

**American College Personnel Association (ACPA):** [http://www.myacpa.org](http://www.myacpa.org)
American College Personnel Association (ACPA), headquartered in Washington, D.C. at the National Center for Higher Education, is the leading comprehensive student affairs association that advances student affairs and engages students for a lifetime of learning and discovery. ACPA, founded in 1924 by May L. Cheney, has nearly 8,500 members representing 1,500 private and public institutions from across the U.S. and around the world. Members include organizations and companies that are engaged in the campus marketplace. Members also include graduate and undergraduate students enrolled in student affairs/higher education administration programs, faculty, and student affairs professionals, from entry level to senior student affairs officers.

**American Counseling Association (ACA):** [http://www.counseling.org](http://www.counseling.org)
The American Counseling Association is a not-for-profit, professional and educational organization that is dedicated to the growth and enhancement of the counseling profession. Founded in 1952, ACA is the world's largest association exclusively representing professional counselors in various practice settings.

**American Psychological Association (APA):** [http://www.apa.org](http://www.apa.org)
Based in Washington, DC, the American Psychological Association (APA) is a scientific and professional organization that represents psychology in the United States. With 150,000 members, APA is the largest association of psychologists worldwide.

**Association on Higher Education and Diversity (AHEAD):** [http://www.ahead.org/](http://www.ahead.org/)
AHEAD is a professional membership organization for individuals involved in the development of policy and in the provision of quality services to meet the needs of persons with disabilities involved in all areas of higher education.

**Association of International Educators (NAFSA):** [http://www.nafsa.org/](http://www.nafsa.org/)
NAFSA: Association of International Educators is a member organization promoting international education and providing professional development opportunities to the field. Hundreds of NAFSA members volunteer to serve the Association and thousands advocate for international education.
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU): https://www.aplu.org/
The Association of Public and Land-grant Universities is a non-profit association of public research universities, land-grant institutions, and state university systems with member campuses in all 50 states, U.S. territories and the District of Columbia. The association is governed by a Chair and a Board of Directors elected from the member universities and university systems. President Peter McPherson directs a staff of about 40 at the national office in Washington, D.C.

Career College Association (CCA): http://www.career.org
The Career College Association is a voluntary membership organization of accredited, private, postsecondary schools, institutes, colleges and universities that provide career-specific educational programs. CCA has over 1,400 members that educate and support almost two million students each year for employment in over 200 occupational fields. These schools and colleges graduate approximately one-half of the technically trained workers who enter the U.S. workforce each year and also provide retraining for displaced workers and skills-upgrading for a wide variety of public and private employers.

Career Planning and Adult Development Network (CPAD): http://www.careernetwork.org/
The Career Planning & Adult Development Network keeps you in touch with other career counselors, career coaches, job search trainers and human resource professionals through its publications, workshops and conferences. The NETWORK publishes a bimonthly newsletter and quarterly journal, both free to NETWORK members. The NETWORK also conducts certification workshops for job and career transition coaches & job search trainers.

National Academic Advising Association (NACADA): http://www.nacada.ksu.edu/
The NATIONAL ACADEMIC ADVISING ASSOCIATION (NACADA), promotes and supports quality academic advising in institutions of higher education to enhance the educational development of students. NACADA provides a forum for discussion, debate, and the exchange of ideas pertaining to academic advising through numerous activities and publications. NACADA also serves as an advocate for effective academic advising by providing a Consulting and Speaker Service, an Awards Program, and funding for Research related to academic advising.

National Association of Academic Advisors for Athletics (N4A): http://www.nfoura.org/
The National Association of Academic Advisors for Athletics is a diverse organization of service professionals who promote the integrity of their profession by providing guiding principles and quality services to support one another as they share information, resources and expertise in their efforts to empower student-athletes to become more productive individuals through educational and personal development.

National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE): http://www.naceweb.org
Established in 1956, the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) is the leading source of information on the employment of the college educated. The professional association connects more than 5,200 college career services professionals at nearly 2,000 colleges and universities nationwide, and more than 3,000 HR/staffing professionals focused on college relations and recruiting.

National Career Development Association (NCDA): http://www.ncda.org
The National Career Development Association (NCDA) is a division of the American Counseling Association (ACA). The mission of NCDA is to promote the career development of all people over the life span. To achieve this mission, NCDA provides service to the public and professionals involved with or interested in career development, including professional development activities, publications, research, public information, professional standards, advocacy, and recognition for achievement and service.

NASPA – Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education: http://www.naspa.org
NASPA – Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education is the leading voice for student affairs administration, policy, and practice, and affirms the commitment of the student affairs profession to educating the whole student and integrating student life and learning. With over 11,000 members at 1,400 campuses, and representing 29 countries, NASPA is the foremost professional association for student affairs administrators, faculty, and graduate and undergraduate students. NASPA members are committed to serving college students by embracing the core values of diversity, learning, integrity, collaboration, access, service, fellowship, and the spirit of inquiry.
National Association of Student Affairs Professionals (NASAP): http://www.nasap.net
NASAP is a professional organization dedicated to promoting excellence in the area of Student Affairs. The organization serves as a beacon for student affairs personnel addressing the issues and needs of today’s college students. With a varied membership spanning across academic, administrative, corporate, and student affairs boundaries, the organization offers a variety of resources, and experiences.

University Continuing Education Association (UCEA): http://www.ucea.edu/
In today's fast-paced, rapidly changing environment, the University Continuing Education Association serves as an important resource to the profession. Its members rely on the Association for timely, cross-disciplinary perspectives on pressing concerns as well as for strategies that can help them respond to the growing population of adults and non-traditional students seeking continuous learning opportunities.

REGIONAL

Eastern Association of Colleges and Employers (EACE): http://www.eace.org/
The Eastern Association of Colleges and Employers (EACE) develops educational programs and services, and facilitates connections and interaction between employers who seek to hire college students and alumni, the career services personnel who serve those students, and the associate members who serve the profession. EACE is the largest regional college / employer network with approximately 1200 members representing 817 colleges, 258 employers, and 27 associates from Maine to Virginia.

Middle Atlantic Career Counseling Association (MACCA): http://www.macca.net/
Provides a specialized, supportive and diverse organization where career professionals in the Middle Atlantic States can enhance the quality of their skills while networking and collaborating with others in the field. Affordable annual conferences provide an opportunity to hear quality speakers who will educate members on relevant information.

Midwest Association of Colleges and Employers (MWACE): http://www.mwace.org/
Since 1949, the Midwest Association of Colleges and Employers (formerly the Midwest College Placement Association) has been bringing together professional in collegiate career services and recruitment/staffing to collaborate, communicate, and connect. Through our efforts, college-educated men and women achieve their career goals and employers add value to their workplace.

NASPA Region IV-East: http://www.naspa.org/regions/regioniv-e/default.cfm
Region IV-E is the organizational vehicle to accomplish NASPA's mission within the Great Lakes (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin, and the Canadian province of Ontario). We are committed to fulfilling NASPA's mission through professionally relevant and personally meaningful activities, programs and resources.

Southern Association of Colleges and Employers (SoACE): http://soace.org/
The Southern Association of Colleges and Employers is an 800+ member organization of human resource, college relations, and career services professionals representing employers and universities throughout the southeast.

Southern Association of College Student Affairs (SACSA): http://www.sacsa.org/
The Southern Association for College Student Affairs (SACSA) is an independent, regional, and generalist association designed for the professional development of practitioners, educators, and students engaged in the student affairs profession.

LOCAL

Academic Advising Network (AAN): http://blog.lib.umn.edu/acadweb/aan/
The University of Minnesota Academic Advising Network includes and serves professional advisors, faculty members, administrators and others in academic and student affairs concerned with the intellectual, personal and educational needs of students. It provides a forum for discussion and the exchange of ideas and information regarding academic advising within the University community.
Career Development Network (CDN): [http://www.career.umn.edu/cdn.htm](http://www.career.umn.edu/cdn.htm)
The University of Minnesota Career Development Network (CDN) is comprised of career and student services professionals from across the Twin Cities campus. Our collaborative approach fosters professional growth and the sharing of best practices among members, which enhances our ability to provide quality career development resources to students at the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities.

Minnesota Associate of Colleges and Employers (MNACE): [http://www.mnace.org](http://www.mnace.org)
MNACE’s mission is to bring together educational and employment representatives who are involved in the career development and employment of college students and alumni; to increase communication and interaction among members and provide a forum to share best practices and discuss common issues, trends and concerns; and to promote and facilitate the personal and professional development of our members.

Minnesota Career Development Association (MCDA): [http://www.mcda.net](http://www.mcda.net)
The mission of the Minnesota Career Development Association (MCDA) is to promote the well-being of our members by providing professional growth, community, and voice to influence, and advocate for, the field of career development.

Minnesota College Personnel Association (MCPA): [http://www.myacpa.org/sid/mn](http://www.myacpa.org/sid/mn)
The Minnesota College Personnel Association (MCPA), as a state division of the American College Personnel Association (ACPA), provides growth and development opportunities to student development/services professionals in all Minnesota institutions of higher education.

Minnesota College and University Career Services Association (MCUCSA): [http://www.mcucsa.org](http://www.mcucsa.org/)
MCUCSA exists to foster the professional development of our members for the benefit of our students and alumni. By working collaboratively, we strive to leverage our expertise to become change agents and resource providers in the career development field.

Twin Cities Association for Psychological Type (TC-APT): [http://www.tc-apt.org](http://www.tc-apt.org/)
To promote the understanding and ethical use of psychological type and the MBTI®, to improve the understanding of ourselves and others, and to enhance the effectiveness of people working together.