



## North Carolina Association Of Student Councils

Dear Administrators,

As our organization enters our 98<sup>th</sup> year, we take pause to evaluate the role of co-curricular activities in school buildings and the benefits gained by our students who actively participate. School student activity programs usually include the planning of social activities and service projects which are deep in tradition. This importance has not changed, but the complexity has most definitely changed. This school year will demand that student activity programs rebuild and redefine school culture. Student leaders can no longer simply create activities to meet the needs for their peers in a conventional way.

The annual Adviser Advance in Pinehurst provides an experience that greatly benefits advisers and the schools in which they work. The conference, annually presented by the North Carolina Association of Student Councils, brings together educators from across North Carolina who work with middle and high school sponsored student activities.

With regard to advisers, NCASC and our Adviser Advance Conference provide professional development to ensure the creation of essential programs to elevate the quality of co-curricular activities on their campus. With extensive training and support combined with building a professional community dedicated to student activities, advisers not only develop the skills to become successful co-curricular advisers but are far more likely to remain in their roles, alleviating the frequent turnover all too common among activity advisers.

This conference provides advisers a network of support, the opportunity to grow their leadership knowledge base, and endless resources. While this may be the second year that schools will have students attending in person after the recent pandemic, there is still much to do in rebuilding school culture, traditions, and expectations. Concerns remain about students dropping out, either from being actively involved in their school community – or from school altogether. Numerous studies and data affirm that participation in co-curricular activities positively impact student attendance, school connectedness, empathy, and promote civic behavior. Now more than ever, student activity advisers need administrators who understand and support their valuable role in the school community. Well-trained advisers are better positioned to maximize the value of this role, for their students and school.

With all this in mind, we ask that you please consider taking advantage of the opportunity to have your advisers – and yourself as well – attend our Adviser Advance in Pinehurst and become an active part of our professional community dedicated to the value and importance of student activities.