

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### NAACO Announces Linda Bekerian, Northeastern University, as New President and Board of Directors

*New Board of Directors' Chemistry to Elevate NAACO*

**PRINCETON JUNCTION, NJ – September 5, 2013** – The North American Association of Commencement Officers welcomes a new team of commencement professionals to serve on its Board of Directors. Included in the new group of professionals, **Linda Bekerian**, Associate Director of Academic Ceremonies at Northeastern University, will become the association's newest president.



Bekerian has dedicated over 15 years to coordinating and developing successful and memorable convocation and commencement ceremonies. Her work extends from event planning and logistics to diploma and publication production and distribution for academic ceremonies.

“I am extremely proud of the opportunity to work with such a talented group of academic professionals,” said Bekerian. “With the Board’s continued support, I want to further elevate the organization, guaranteeing the continued and improved exchange of commencement and convocation information and ideas between colleges and universities.”

Bekerian will follow former NAACO president **Susan Durkee**, Office Technology Analyst, Concordia University. She will also join the ranks of **Doug Bolin**, Artistic Director and Director of Operations at The University of Texas at Austin as Past President, **Lois Ferguson**, Manager of Commencement and Facilities Planning at Baylor University as President Elect, **Gabrielle Copperwheat**, Executive Director of NAACO Headquarters, **Christine Deehan**, Director University Events, Rowan University, who will serve as Treasurer and **Laura Rommelfanger**, Executive Events Coordinator, University of Wisconsin, who will serve as Secretary.

NAACO also welcomes **Gale Beckwith** of Plymouth University as the newest Director at Large, along with returning Directors **Sheelagh Atkinson**, Manager, Events and Ceremonial, Division of Advancement at York University and **Lisa Walker**, Director of Commencement and Marketing Manager, University of Washington, Bothell.

For more information on NAACO, visit [www.naaco.org](http://www.naaco.org).

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#### About NAACO

Founded in 2001, the North American Association of Commencement Officers (NAACO) is a professional association of commencement and convocation officers from colleges and

universities throughout North America. NAACO is dedicated to providing a community structure for commencement professionals to exchange ideas, share traditions, explore new opportunities and connect with colleagues from around the world who share the monumental responsibility of producing academic ceremonies. For more information, visit [www.naaco.org](http://www.naaco.org).