



NORTH AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF COMMENCEMENT OFFICERS, INC.

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New NAACO President Lisa Walker Takes Reign

Incoming Board Set to Advance Standard for Ceremonies Association of Leadership



PRINCETON JUNCTION, N.J. – August 20, 2015 – The North American Association of Commencement Officers announced today its new president, **Lisa Walker**, director of ceremonies and marketing at the University of Washington Bothell effective August 1. In addition, NAACO welcomed several new Board members to help lead the association.

As director of ceremonies at University of Washington Bothell, Walker is responsible for planning and coordinating all aspects of the commencement and convocation ceremonies. This includes event logistics, budget preparation and reconciliation, as well as supervising all volunteers, faculty, staff and vendors to create and implement memorable commencement ceremonies. She also plans additional university events.

“I am thrilled to serve the association as its new president,” Walker said. “I look forward to working with the new board to improve commencement and convocation ceremonies at colleges and universities across North America.”

Walker will follow former NAACO President **Lois Ferguson**, manager of commencement and facilities planning at Baylor University, who will now serve as past-president. She also will be joined by **Sheelagh Atkinson**, manager, convocation and special projects at York University, who will serve as president-elect; **Julie Vanderyagt**, manager of events and ceremonies at Capilano University, who will serve as treasurer; and **Gabrielle Copperwheat**, executive director of NAACO Headquarters.

NAACO also welcomes **Jill Williams**, associate director of university events, Johns Hopkins University, in her step up from interim director to director at large for communications.

For more information on NAACO, visit 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.