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# The IE Freedom Trail:

*Maximizing Professional Development  
Opportunities in Your Career*

BASAA Spring Conference, 2017

Kerry Geffert, Terra Dotta

Alida Gomez, Wheaton College

Nora Larkin, CAPA The Global Education Network

Zachary Macinnes, Trinity College

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# {INTRODUCTION}

## Kerry Geffert

- 35+ years in the field
- 13 yrs @ university (ISSS), 21 yrs on “the dark side” (EA), 1+ yrs ancillary
- Advisor - Asst Dir - Dir/ Assoc Dean - Deputy Dir - Assoc VP - VP - Dir - Product Evangelist
- NAFSA: Newsletter Editor, Chair, Conf Chair, Cttes, Noms&Elecs Chair, EAKC Chair, MDP Trainer/Chair
- **Best PD advice: Your integrity is more important than the money.**

## Alida Gomez

- Entered the field 5 ½ years ago, in entry-level position.
- 5 years at BSU as Administrative Assistant in Office of Study Abroad
- NAFSA Academy, class 12
- Just started at Wheaton College last fall as Associate Director of Center for Global Education
- **Best PD advice: Find an advocate and be an advocate**

## Nora Larkin

- 10+ years in the field
- 4 years as Executive Assistant to AVP at IES Abroad
- 2 years teaching abroad
- 4+ years at Institutional Relations Manager at CAPA
- NAFSA Region XI Secretary
- Diversity Committee, Scholarship Committee at CAPA
- **Best PD advice: Just say YES!**

## Zac Macinnes

- 8 years in the field
- Trinity College in Hartford, CT
- 5+ years as a Regional Director for International Studies Abroad - the value of the “road warrior”
- BASAA, NAFSA, CASA, committees at my college
- Other conferences
- **Best PD advice: Don’t wait for professional development to come to you - err on the side of bold!**

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**This session aims to provide an overview of professional development resources available to new and developing professionals within the field of international education. Creative avenues for finding funding support will be discussed, along with volunteer and networking opportunities.**

- Opportunities within your current role
  - Opportunities beyond your current role
  - Show me the money!
  - Brainstorming other avenues for professional development
  - Questions?
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# Benefits of Roles in Education Abroad

## 1 | Institution

Professional development opportunities unrelated to International Education

Be seen as valuable to institution as a whole, not just your office.

Benefits

## 2 | Provider

Diverse and changing/flexible roles

Fast-paced change  
/Innovation/Less red tape

Networking opportunities

## 3 | Ancillary

Destination vs Route

Value of an IE background

Transferable skills

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# Job Considerations

- Professional development starts during the interview process
  - Asking about professional development opportunities during the job interview **tactfully**
  - Negotiating professional development opportunities with new employers
  - Consider your manager
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# In your current role

1 | What are your strengths?

2 | What are your interests?

3 | How can you help your organization?

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You have skills that go beyond your job description - seek opportunities to use them within your job.

Take advantage of working in a field where we often have to wear many hats!

2 | What are your interests?

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## 2 | What are your interests?

Find projects within your organization that line up with your interests and passions.

Ex: social media, web design, html coding

## 3 | How can you help your organization?

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## 3 | How can you help your organization?

- Search committees
- Attend functions/events
- Answer calls for volunteers: orientations, commencement, etc



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# Beyond Your Institution:

Volunteer, Present, Attend Workshops

- Local opportunities
    - BASAA - Summer Social, Fall Meeting, Sips for Scholarships, etc
    - Lessons from Abroad New England conference for returnees
    - Connecticut Area Study Abroad (CASA) Re-entry Conference
  - NAFSA
    - NAFSA Academy
    - NAFSA Regional Conference
  - Forum on Education Abroad
  - Diversity Abroad
  - Opportunities with sister organizations, e.g., AACRAO, ACPA, NASPA, ACUI, etc.
  - Site visits and international travel
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FORUM  
ON EDUCATION  
ABROAD

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# Beyond Your Institution:

## Plan Ahead & Keep Costs Down

- Wait for national conferences to be local: next year, the Forum is in Boston and the NAFSA Annual is in Philadelphia
- Carpooling, sharing a hotel room
- Review conference sessions and have a plan to present to your supervisor
- Consider one-day registrations



# Finding funding

1 | Within your office

2 | Free/Inexpensive  
Opportunities

3 | Securing funding

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What is your office's professional development budget?

Where are there opportunities to be creative?

Supervisor support!

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- Free webinars
- Trainings through your institution

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- Partner organizations may offer grants  
Ex: CIS advisor grant
- Volunteers often receive discounted registration fees

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Be willing to strategically invest in your career advancement

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## Final Thoughts/Takeaways:

- Find your dream job posting, see what experiences you need and take ideas to supervisor to work into your current job
  - When you attend workshops/conferences, make sure to bring something back to the office
  - It's OK to not like everything you try
  - Consider Institutional Relations as a pathway to professional development in attending conferences, presenting at conferences, networking!
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**What professional development resources have you found helpful?**

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