

ANDRÉ L. FORTUNE, PH.D.

April 21, 2026

Dear Dr. Gallot and Presidential Search Committee:

I am writing to formally express my interest in serving as the ninth President of McNeese State University (McNeese). I was honored to learn of my nomination, and I am grateful to be considered to lead an institution whose mission and regional impact align with my professional experience and leadership values. I bring a student-centered and strategic leadership approach grounded in aligning vision, people, policy, and resources to strengthen student achievement outcomes and institutional effectiveness. As a practitioner-scholar with nearly 25 years of experience in multiple higher education systems, I offer new perspectives that position me to serve as a strategic partner in the University of Louisiana System while effectively advocating for McNeese.

My career spans roles inside and outside the classroom at flagship and regional public universities in rural, urban, and suburban settings with enrollment from 6,000 to 58,000 students. In each setting, I have led and served on teams that have consistently met and exceeded institutional and system goals. My leadership record reflects a commitment to student-centered decisions, shared governance, responsible financial stewardship, and the development of both students and employees. I am confident my experience, vision, and collaborative leadership approach position me to excel as chief ambassador for McNeese State University, and I welcome the opportunity to discuss my candidacy further.

Why McNeese

As a first-generation college graduate, I am deeply committed to the mission of public higher education and its transformative role in advancing both social mobility and economic vitality. Regional public universities expand access, but their true impact is measured not only by who enrolls, but by who graduates, advances professionally, and contributes meaningfully to the strength of their communities. As an undergraduate, my life trajectory was shaped through mentorship from a caring dean who invested in my sense of belonging and connected me to student success resources that proved pivotal to my development. McNeese's mission "to deliver a life-changing higher education experience" and its commitment to "excellence with a personal touch" reflect the values that have guided my career and leadership philosophy. The opportunity to serve a university grounded in these principles is both professionally and personally meaningful.

I am attracted to McNeese State University's commitment to student success and its recognition of athletics and student life as important drivers of engagement and institutional pride. McNeese has a strong foundation and is ready for its next chapter of impact. The academic portfolio and research enterprise demonstrate responsiveness to industry needs while preparing graduates to thrive in emerging fields across Louisiana and beyond. Sustaining momentum requires collaborative planning, disciplined prioritization, and strategic investment in initiatives that yield meaningful outcomes for students and the region. I am eager to partner with faculty, staff, students, alumni, and community leaders to translate the goals of the 2024-2029 Strategic Plan into measurable progress that strengthens academic quality, expands workforce alignment, and elevates institutional visibility. I am energized by the opportunity to build upon the university's strong foundation and to steward McNeese's continued impact in service to the people, industries, and communities of Southwest Louisiana for decades to come.

Leadership Experience

Throughout my career, I have been operationally and strategically engaged in nearly every dimension of the higher education enterprise. My experience includes teaching graduate and undergraduate students, chairing a NCAA Division I Student-Athlete Well-Being Subcommittee, serving as executive in charge in the absence of the president, and executive roles leading over 200 employees. Across these roles, I have focused on student and employee development, enrollment resilience, creating high-quality student experiences, deepening community engagement, and supported revenue growth strategies that contribute to institutional stability. As a collaborative and communicative leader, I lead with transparency and consultation so faculty and staff expertise, along with student perspectives, inform decisions without stifling forward progress. I value shared governance and system collaboration, while exercising clear and decisive leadership within those frameworks.

At South Carolina Upstate, I provided the vision to enhance the student experience through cross-divisional collaboration. Subsequently, the Chancellor invited me to accompany him in his new role as President at my current institution, evidence of the trust and strategic alignment we quickly established. I accepted the opportunity during a critical period of institutional transition, where I served in a dual executive capacity overseeing both Enrollment Management and Student Affairs. After stabilizing enrollment strategy, I led the search to hire a new vice president for enrollment management. This transition allowed me to place full focus to Student Affairs and enterprise-wide leadership priorities.

Our executive leadership team charted a course to make us a first-choice destination and developed a scorecard to measure outcomes and key performance indicators. We addressed numerous structural challenges, including investing in pay equity and implementing growth initiatives to eliminate a \$6 million housing budget deficit. Through integrated planning, organizational restructuring, faculty engagement, and the adoption of research-aligned student success practices, we reversed years of pre-pandemic enrollment decline and grew student involvement by 213%. For the past three consecutive years we have achieved the highest undergraduate retention in the university's history. Further, this past Fall semester we reached a new enrollment record of more than 16,000 students. These outcomes were not the product of isolated initiatives but of intentional actions, collaborative leadership, and holding ourselves accountable to measurable results. Seeing my team exceed what they believed possible has been among the most rewarding aspects of my leadership journey.

In addition to focus on campus operations, I am an institutional ambassador and strategic resource in the community. My service on a local Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors demonstrates my capacity to balance being active on campus and cultivate external relationships. My experience engaging community leaders has prepared me to work with external partners to positively impact McNeese students, faculty, and staff, as well as the parishes and communities McNeese serves. I would prioritize the university's role as a regional talent anchor by strengthening partnerships with K-12, community colleges, industry, alumni, and elected officials to advance shared goals. My ability to build and sustain relationships has prepared me to successfully represent McNeese in Baton Rouge and otherwise.

At multiple institutions, I have worked with advancement colleagues to engage community and government leaders, alumni, university employees, and students, in the relationship-building central to successful fundraising. My involvement has included cultivation, solicitation, and stewardship of private and corporate gifts, including serving on a team that produced a record \$16 million in annual philanthropic support. I have nurtured partnerships that expanded internship and career pathways while generating philanthropic support, including an endowed

gift supporting student success. I am confident representing the university, telling its story with clarity, and making direct asks in alignment with institutional priorities. I would look forward to working closely with the McNeese State University Foundation team to increase philanthropic support for student success, experiential learning, and front porches like the arts and athletics.

Lasting Impact

Authentic commitment to students has remained at the heart of my approach to higher education leadership. While I have the pleasure of working with faculty, staff, alumni, parents, community, and elected officials, student relationships are among my most important. Despite significant administrative responsibilities and external commitments, I intentionally create opportunities to connect with and mentor students. I regularly host conversations with Student Government Association, orientation leaders, resident assistants, student-athletes, and students who do not hold formal leadership roles. Furthermore, my wife and I make it a priority to support students in their co-curricular and extra-curricular activities, whether they are showing their talents on stage, presenting research, participating in athletic competition, or otherwise. We are intentional to be present and actively engaged. In service to McNeese, we will both “ride for the brand” in all that we do, and I am confident no one will yell Geaux Pokes louder than us.

The next chapter at McNeese State University needs a leader that balances steadiness of direction while thoughtfully advancing innovation aligned with mission and institutional culture. I am prepared to lead McNeese on day one by listening first, engaging campus, community, and the Board of Supervisors well before officially arriving on campus. Meaningful progress is most sustainable when built upon institutional strengths, guided by shared governance, and informed by the voices of those who know the university best. Together with the broader McNeese community, advisory and governance bodies, I will align priorities and resources to deliver on the UL System’s vision for shaping the future of Louisiana. In my first year and always, I will:

- Maintain a visible, accessible presence with an inclusive, student-centered focus
- Foster and preserve trust through shared governance and transparency
- Advance academic excellence and ensure programs support regional workforce needs

I am drawn to McNeese State University as a place to dedicate fully in advancing an institution whose mission reflects my commitment to students, educational access, and community impact. I bring experienced executive leadership, a strategic mindset, and readiness informed by national leadership development as an American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) Millennium Leadership Initiative (MLI) fellow.

If selected for the privilege to serve as your president, I am committed to honoring McNeese State University’s rich history while leading with integrity, transparency, and a bold growth-oriented mindset. My success as a leader has always been grounded in collaboration and the strength of great teams. As your president, I will listen actively, foster trust, and work tirelessly to build on McNeese’s strong momentum, unlocking its potential to grow enrollment while improving retention and graduation outcomes. I will further strengthen visibility as a regional talent anchor and deepen partnerships that drive economic development in Southeast Texas and Southwest Louisiana. I welcome the opportunity to discuss how together, we will continue making a lasting impact in Louisiana and beyond. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



André L. Fortune, Ph.D.

ANDRÉ L. FORTUNE, PH.D.

EDUCATION

<i>Doctor of Philosophy</i>	Educational Leadership and Higher Education University of Nebraska-Lincoln	<i>May 2015</i> Lincoln, Nebraska
<i>Master of Science</i>	Higher Education Administration University of Kansas	<i>May 2005</i> Lawrence, Kansas
<i>Bachelor of Arts</i>	Communication Studies University of Kansas	<i>December 2001</i> Lawrence, Kansas

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

University of West Georgia (UWG) **2020-present**
Regional comprehensive public four-year university within University System of Georgia (USG).
Enrolling over 16,000 students, and competing in second year as NCAA Division I (formerly DII)

Vice President for Student Affairs **November 2021-present**

Chief student affairs officer, reporting directly to the President. Responsible for providing strategic leadership and operational management of people, programs, services, finances, and facilities within Division of Student Affairs; including executive oversight and stewardship for over \$29.7M budget, 120 employees in 14 units focused on student support services, engagement, and development. Member of President's Cabinet, advises President and peers on matters pertaining to student experience, student safety & security, enhancing recruitment, retention, and student success.

- Responsible for effectively managing and allocating human and financial resources aligned with strategic plan and institutional priorities
- Manage eight public private ventures (PPVs), in conjunction with executive colleagues and respective Foundation Boards
- Serves as member of externally facing executive team focused on building positive relations and partnerships with community, alumni, elected officials, business and industry leaders
- Advises President on marketing, communications, and crisis management strategies to enhance internal communication, external university visibility, and public relations

Selected Accomplishments:

- Collaborated to design strategies and implement initiatives leading to record undergraduate retention (76% Fall 2023; 77.5% Fall 2024; 77.8% Fall 2025) and record overall enrollment (14,394, Fall 2024; 16,072, Fall 2025)
- Partnered with Chief Financial Officer to provide guidance (e.g., marketing, facility enhancements, staff restructuring) for Housing team to erase projected \$6M structural deficit
- Redesigned and restructured Career Services to increase campus visibility (student walk-ins increased 10%), partner with faculty, and utilize national best practices. Department awarded 2024 Champion of Career Support Excellence by SkillsFirst Career Management for achieving the highest percentage of students submitting career materials for review, coupled with exceptional staff follow-through to review student submissions.
- Directed launch of collaborative co-creation of student engagement programs; 4,000+ unique attendees (over 20,000 total) at over 600 events in FY22; 213% increase in student participation in FY23; FY25 eclipsed 30,000 students on main campus and nearly 5,000 on satellite campus
- Increased investments on mental health resources, in FY22 advanced from two (2) Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) suicide prevention trainers to 26, training nearly 250 students, faculty, and staff. Expanded use of online mental health resource to 1,900+ users in FY24; nearly 4,400 in FY25

Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management

April 2020-November 2021

Direct appointed to dual executive role as the chief student affairs officer and chief enrollment officer. Former South Carolina Upstate Chancellor invited me to serve as Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management (SAEM), responsible for providing strategic leadership and operational management for undergraduate recruitment activities, programs, services, facilities, and human resources within SAEM. Executive oversight for over \$32M budget 200+ employees focused on recruitment, retention, and student engagement & development. Chaired search for the inaugural Vice President for Strategic Enrollment Management.

Selected Accomplishments:

- During first month of hire, effectively advised President on strategy to eliminate \$12M deficit without jeopardizing student services and diminishing student experience
- Laid groundwork to revamp and diversify undergraduate recruitment strategies; reallocated resources to capture larger traditional-aged student market shares at an earlier point
- Successfully co-coordinated opening of unique enrollment services first-stop shop focused on service excellence and maximizing operational efficiency
- Team introduced student fundraising initiative, earning ~ \$35,000 during Homecoming
- Identified external consultant to lead comprehensive review of enrollment functions; leading to implementation of a strategic enrollment plan that diversified the target populations in service to enrollment growth and improved operational efficiency across enrollment management
- Assisted with successfully navigating campus operations to fully re-open during COVID-19
- Led search to hire inaugural Vice President for Strategic Enrollment Management

University of South Carolina Upstate (Upstate)

July 2019-April 2020

Regional comprehensive university, member of the University of South Carolina System, with enrollment of 6,300+ students and competing in NCAA Division I

Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs

Senior Student Affairs Officer, charged with providing visionary leadership and executive oversight of matters pertaining to students. Oversight of Dean of Students Office (Student Conduct and coordination of Campus Assessment, Referral, & Evaluation Team); Disability Services; co-supervised Housing & Residential Life; Student Life (Campus Activities Board, Fraternity/Sorority Life, Leadership Programs & Volunteer Services, Multicultural Programs, and Non-Traditional Student Services); Student Counseling Services; Health Center, and Rec Center.

- Member of Chancellor's Cabinet – Advised Chancellor and peers on matters pertaining to enhancing student success, institutional improvement, and protecting University brand
- Enhanced university recruitment, orientation, retention and graduation through use of data, assessment, policy development, and event coordination
- Delivered responsive and proactive assistance to students and the university in emergency and crisis situations; co-chaired CARE Team

Selected Accomplishments:

- Assisted University with successfully navigating campus evacuation at onset of COVID-19
- Successfully advocated for additional financial resources to modernize Division; created new positions, and re-structured to increase operational efficiencies
- Re-aligned resources to focus on strategic priorities and highest areas of need (student retention, added & remodeled space for student engagement, development, and wellbeing, as well as staff development, equity, and community building)
- Established Co-Curricular Engagement Committee in partnership with Academic Affairs
- Co-led inter-divisional team focused on creating a campus-wide Homecoming experience
- Worked with team to launch FSL visibility and leadership development fundraising campaign

University of Texas at Arlington (UTA)**July 2015-July 2019**

Public comprehensive urban Carnegie Research-1 institution, member of the University of Texas System, competing in NCAA Division I. Hispanic-Serving Institution, with global enrollment of 58,000+

Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs

Served as senior member of Student Affairs Leadership Team, assisting Vice President with resource management, planning, and leadership of a Division of Student Affairs with an operating budget of over \$22M, 180 professional employees, and more than 425 student employees.

- Effectively managed campus life initiatives by providing administrative oversight of Orientation & Transition Programs, Multicultural Affairs & LGBTQA Program, Parent & Family Center, Student Publications, Veteran Services, International Education (International Student & Scholar Services, Study Abroad, and Global Engagement)
- Ensured departmental operations help fulfill academic mission of University by managing development and submission of reports and fostering culture of continuous improvement

Selected Accomplishments:

- Co-led inter-divisional team to provide crisis response and support to students impacted by Hurricane Harvey (one of history's most devastating storms); institution able to retain 94% of students seeking support, awarding over \$59,000 in emergency aid
- Repaired relationship with external foundation – Foundation provides \$200k in support for tuition, fee, and expenses for students with disabilities
- Aided Vice President with \$500k budget reduction process; recommendations avoided reduction in force and preserved key operations
- Led revision of *Student Affairs on Campus* journal submission criteria – The journal for the Texas Association of College & University Student Personnel Administrators (TACUSPA)

University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL)**2007-2015**

UNL is the public flagship, research intensive land-grant institution in the University of Nebraska System. UNL enrolls over 25,000 students, and competes at NCAA Division I within the Big Ten

Assistant to the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs**July 2014-July 2015**

Supported and led division-wide initiatives at the pleasure of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs. Assisted with developing, revising, and implementing division's strategic plan, mission, vision, and learning outcomes for 13 departments.

- Advised Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs on division-wide diversity and inclusion initiatives and procedures for institutional response to student activism
- Responsible for allocation of nearly \$65,000 to support student programming and travel; monitored expenditure and auditing of corporate sponsorships of nearly \$30,000

Selected Accomplishments:

- Served on Academic Affairs team to identify and implement strategic interventions for student success; focusing on students in "murky middle"
- Led development and implementation of first Division-wide strategic plan for inclusive excellence

Director**September 2009-July 2015****Gaughan Multicultural Center and****Office of Academic Success & Intercultural Services**

Responsible for oversight of institution's first intentional multicultural center; accountable for management and assessment of Office of Academic Success & Intercultural Services (OASIS). Provided programs, services, and facilities contributing to comprehensive student success initiatives

- Provided programs, services, and facilities contributing to comprehensive efforts to enhance student retention, cultural awareness, and social engagement

- Provided direct supervision, training, evaluation, and coaching of seven professional staff, four graduate assistants, and 30+ student employees
- Utilized predictive modeling to effectively oversee three retention programs (utilizing Starfish[®]) serving over 500 undergraduates; *NU Connections* (82-87% retention), *Chancellor's Scholars* (min. 3.5 GPA), and *Promising Scholars* (non-scholarship, "at-risk" populations)
- Responsible for expenditure audits and allocation of student fee and state funded budgets nearing \$750,000 for facility management, programming, and staff development. Facility included four departments, student organization offices, meeting and conference rooms, lounges, kitchen, computer lab, music room, and library for Japanese Studies – over 2,000 annual reservations
- Led and supported departmental assessment efforts for retention services, diversity awareness programs, and social engagement programs – Facilitated external reviews, including use of Council for the Advancement of Standards (CAS) in Higher Education
- Assisted Union Director in evaluation of exclusive and non-exclusive catering, custodial, and retail contracts to generate revenue to support a nearly \$6M budget

Selected Accomplishments:

- Opened and successfully managed new \$8.7M, 30,000 ft² multicultural center
- Led revision of student retention programs; grew student retention by approximately 5%
- Co-lead development and administration of multi-site campus-wide tutoring program that served over 2,300 students in first year of operation
- Co-lead development of Success Coach roles and academic probation recovery program for all academic advising units and multiple student support departments. Utilized predictive analytics, revised, developed, and implemented anti-deficit communication plans

Director for Recruitment and Retention

August 2007-August 2009

College of Engineering

Provided immediate and long-range planning, implementation, and coordination for: undergraduate student outreach/recruiting, admissions, advising, career services, diversity initiatives, scholarships, retention, and alumni outreach; enrolled 400+ incoming students each Fall. Partnered with faculty to develop workshops and programs to enhance recruitment and retention.

- Supervised, trained, evaluated, and built collegiality for three professional staff, six student ambassadors, one student employee, and 20+ volunteer guides
- Assisted Associate Dean with alumni and donor engagement
- Supported annual Engineering Living Learning Community Spring Break Trip introducing mostly first-year students to careers in engineering and connecting students to alumni
- Led campus visit assessment and coordination efforts for 500+ visits annually
- Managed, allocated, and audited expenditures for recruitment, retention, and career services budgets of approximately \$170,000
- Managed and coordinated scholarship awarding of over \$700,000 to new students – Successfully assisted in management, selection, coordination, and distribution of upper-class student scholarship awards totaling over \$1.1 million annually

Selected Accomplishments:

- Restructured campus visit program
 - 91% of senior visitors applied (13% increase from the prior year)
 - yielded nearly 3% enrollment increase for Fall 2009
 - Spearheaded infrastructural improvements to create campus visit center for the College
- Developed and revised scholarship rubric to better leverage College resources, grow enrollment, and shape desired profile

University of Kansas (KU)

2002-2007

KU is a public flagship, research intensive institution in the Association of American Universities (AAU), enrolling nearly 30,000 students. KU is an NCAA Division I institution in the Big XII

Assistant Director

August 2004-August 2007

Office of Admissions & Scholarships

Provided support and leadership for recruitment initiatives to increase undergraduate enrollment, with emphasis on historically underrepresented populations (first-generation, low-income, and ethnic minority)

Selected Accomplishments:

- Successfully recruited and counseled several hundred prospective students (and parents) – aiding in enrolling 4,000+ first-year students via on-campus and off-campus recruitment
- Coordinated diversity recruitment efforts via 70+ campus visit programs for groups of up to 200
- Coordinated design of *Multicultural KU* marketing publication with University Relations – over 12,000 copies issued annually – assisted in coordination of first Spanish/English brochure

Admissions Counselor

July 2002-August 2004

Office of Admissions & Scholarships

Successfully recruited two largest in-state territories, Lawrence and Kansas City, Kan. Out of state recruitment focused on public and private schools in St. Louis, MO and Chicago, IL areas.

Selected Accomplishments:

- Territories accounted for enrollment of over half the 4,000-person freshman class
- Assisted University Relations in developing recruitment publications; co-created inaugural *Find Your Home at KU* booklet with focus on resources geared towards students from small cities

SELECT FUNDRAISING, SPONSORSHIPS, and GRANT AWARDS

- Oversight of team responsible for securing and managing federal and state grants: **\$297,000** annually, *FY26-present*; **\$187,100** annually, *FY23-FY25*
- Co-authored grant earning **\$27,500** for USG Mental Health Initiative, *August 2021*
- Assisted with negotiating and securing **\$100,000** multi-year corporate sponsorship to support Division of Student Affairs priorities; *July 2017*
- Assisted with solicitation and stewardship of lead donor for **\$8.7 million** multicultural center and student union expansion; *Spring 2011*
- **\$591,995** National Science Foundation (NSF) S-STEM grant; Assisted with writing & editing NSF grant proposal; selected to lead administrative oversight when grant was awarded; *Spring 2008*

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- University of West Georgia (UWG). HESA 6174, Adjunct Instructor, College Student Affairs Graduate Program; *Fall 2022*
- UWG. Invited Lecturer, College Student Affairs Graduate Program; *Fall 2020-Spring 2022*
- University of Texas at Arlington
 - Invited Lecturer, Educational Leadership & Policy Studies Graduate Program; *Fall 2015-2019*
 - MAVS 1000, Instructor for first-year seminar; *Fall 2016*
- University of Nebraska-Lincoln. ENGR 1000, Instructor for two (of five) first-year engineering seminar sections focused on retention and student success; *Fall 2008*

UNIVERSITY & PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- NCAA Division I Reclassification Self-Study Steering Committee; *March 2026-present*
 - Member of team selected to review institutional readiness for full reclassification, with focus on governance and compliance, student-athlete well-being, and academic integrity
 - Chair, Student-Athlete Well-Being Subcommittee
- Board of Directors, Douglas County Chamber (DCC) – Elected to two (2) one-year appointments to externally represent UWG and provide guidance and support to DCC focus on leadership development, legislative advocacy, workforce and economic development for Douglas County. Provides guidance on strategic plan and budget allocation; *January 2025-present*
- University System of Georgia Regents Advisory Council/Chief Academic Liaison for Student Affairs
 - Past-Chair; *March 2026-present*
 - Chair; *Spring 2025-March 2026*
 - Chair-Elect; *Spring 2024-Spring 2025*
- NASPA (National Association of Student Personnel Administrators) Region III
 - Corporate Sponsor Liaison – Co-leads coordination of fundraising efforts for 2025 Summer Symposium and interact with sponsors; *Summer 2024-present*
 - NASPA Region III Board Member; *Summer 2024-present*
- NASPA National Conferences and Institutes – Serve as faculty; assists with program development, facilitates workshops & discussions to train aspiring higher education leaders
 - NASPA AVP Pre-Conference; *2018*
 - NASPA African American Male Summit; *2016-present*
- Real Estate Foundation Board – Serve as ex-officio member of university-affiliated nonprofit Corporation with fiduciary responsibilities for multiple on campus properties (UWG); *2020-present*
- Doctoral Dissertation Committee Service
 - Committee Member. The Influence of Black Greek Membership on The Academic Engagement of African American Male Students (Dr. Cedric Shelby, 2021). University of Texas at Arlington.
 - Committee Member. Life on the Front Line: Staff Experiences Handling Distressed Students and Their Perceptions on Job Satisfaction (Dr. Delcencia Collins, 2020). University of Texas at Arlington.
- Strategic Planning Committee – Selected to assist with development of UTA Division of Student Affairs strategic plan; *Fall 2018-summer 2019*
- Orientation Experience Tactical Enrollment Subgroup – Led taskforce designed to enhance orientation experience with focus on increasing new student enrollment; *Fall 2018-Spring 2019*
- Emergency Operations Center Resources Lead – Assigned leader for special needs/student affairs operations in event of campus emergency; *summer 2018-summer 2019*
- MyMav Strategy & Product Roadmap Committee – Provided feedback regarding upgrades and user experience for University Student Information System – *Spring 2018-summer 2019*
- Serves on Student Initiative Fund for Technology (SIFT) Committee – Co-advised student leaders with making recommendations to the Vice President for allocating \$75,000 in student fees to fund technology support within Division; *Spring 2017-summer 2019*
- NASPA Innovation Grants Program Committee Member – Assisted in assessing national grant competition submissions and made awarding recommendations; *Spring 2017-Spring 2018*

- Student Philanthropy Committee – Partner with Office of Institutional Advancement, Division of Student Affairs, and student leaders to incite a culture of giving; *Spring 2016-summer 2019*
- UTA Commencement Staff – Assists in successful execution of seven semi-annual graduate and undergraduate ceremonies; *Fall 2015-Spring 2019*
- Co-chair for campus-wide Behavioral Intervention Team (BIT) – Utilized national best practices to address student issues of concern to safeguard health, safety, and welfare of UT Arlington community; *September 2015-February 2019*
- *Student Affairs on Campus* (TACUSPA Journal) Editorial Board Member; *Fall 2016-Fall 2017*
- Maverick March – Working with students and staff to lead pre-Convocation pep rally for new and returning students; *Fall 2016, Fall 2017*
- Served on “Top Chapter” Selection Committee – Assisted in identifying top UTA Greek fraternity and sorority chapter promoting brotherhood/sisterhood, philanthropy/community service, scholarship, and leadership; *April 2016*
- IMPACT Facilitator – Co-facilitated small group dialogues utilizing national leadership institute curriculum – focused on uniting UTA Fraternity and Sorority Life councils; *January 2016*
- Chaired UTA Commuter Student Engagement Task Force – led inter-divisional team responsible for recommendations to increase commuter student involvement in campus activities; *Fall 2015*
- Emergency Assistance Fund (and Services) Review Committee member – Reviewed cases for students in need and identified resources for support; *Fall 2015*
- Served on UNL Threat Assessment, Incident Management, and Prevention Services (TIPS) response team; *summer 2014-summer 2015*
- UNL Accreditation Reaffirmation Work Group – Supported development of arguments and presentation of evidence to address Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Criterion and Federal Compliance requirements for 2016 site visit for university accreditation; *January 2015-May 2015*
- UNL University Commencement & Honors Convocation Committee – Assisted in execution of three annual graduate and undergraduate ceremonies; *Fall 2014-summer 2015*
- Vietnamese Student Association (VSA) Advisor – advised student organization focused on celebrating and recognizing Vietnamese culture; *Fall 2012-summer 2015*
- Retention Advisory Group – worked with Academic Affairs to focus on devising and implementing effective campus-wide retention initiatives; *Fall 2013-summer 2015*
- Family Assistance Center (FAC) Co-Director – responsible for coordination of all FAC operations, included approving & requesting resources, and communications with Emergency Operations Center during large-scale crises and emergencies impacting UNL; *Spring 2013-summer 2015*
- Advising Coordinating Board – advocated, monitored, and assessed strategies to improve campus-wide advising practices to increase student retention; *Fall 2011-summer 2015*
- Nebraska Union Board – served on advisory board to guide policies and procedures for two student unions and Gaughan Multicultural Center; *January 2010-July 2015*
- Student Success Council – selected to identify, develop, implement, and advocate practices and policies that facilitate retention and graduation; *Fall 2012-Spring 2014*

- W.E.B. Du Bois Honor Society – co-advised undergraduate honor society for service, scholarship, and recognizing academic excellence (minimum 3.3 GPA required); *Fall 2011- summer 2015*
- Asian World Alliance (AWA) Advisor – advised Recognized Student Organization focused on celebrating and recognizing Asian-American culture; *summer 2012-Spring 2014*
- Black Men Organized for Retention and Education (B.MORE) Advisor – organization promoting positive actions of Black males – University of Nebraska-Lincoln; *Fall 2010-Spring 2014*
Chancellor’s MLK Week Planning Committee – co-directed Chancellor’s weeklong recognition of Dr. King’s contributions to civil rights and social justice; *Fall 2012-Spring 2014 (two terms)*
- Probation Revision Task Force – selected to inter-departmental team to revise and develop an intensive university-wide probation recovery process and program, including evaluation of communications and developing academic success workshops; *Spring 2012-Spring 2013*
- Judicial Hearing Officer – assisted Dean of Students with investigating student code of conduct violations. Adjudicated and counseled students found responsible; *Fall 2012-Fall 2013*
- Strategic Enrollment Management – assisted in developing strategies and performance indicators to advance first-generation and underrepresented minority retention; *Fall 2011-Spring 2012*
- Enrollment Management Council – developed strategies for coordinated recruiting and retention initiatives from pre-enrollment to post-graduation; *Fall 2009-Fall 2011*
- Admissions Advising and Retention Group – strategic meetings focused on improving recruitment, advising and retention of undergraduate students; *Fall 2007-Fall 2009*
- Symposium on the Recruitment & Retention of Students of Color Planning Committee – served on national conference planning committee committed to identifying best practices and identifying trends for effective recruitment and retention of historically marginalized populations; *Spring 2007*
- Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. – advised 3-12 (membership varied annually) undergraduate men with daily operations according to international organization and University guidelines. Assisted in new member education and training; co-managed yearly operating budget – Zeta Omicron Chapter, University of Kansas, Collegiate Chapter Advisor, *2001-2003; 2005-2007*
- Search Committees – chaired and served on a multitude of search committees ranging from entry-level to executive-level and faculty positions (UWG, USC Upstate, UTA, UNL, and KU)

PUBLICATIONS & SELECT PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

Cepin, D., Fortune, A. L., Gassiot, K., Martin, C., & Reese, K. (2025). *Featured session: Leadership panel*. NASPA Region III Summer Symposium.

Fortune, A. L., & Eagle, J. (2025). *The interview: Creating an engaging campus environment*. GoodCourse.

Fortune, A. L., Ortega, E., Sanchez, A., Velazquez, T., & Mercado, C. (2024). *How to thrive as introverts during professional conferences*. NASPA Latinx/a/o Knowledge Community.

Krueger, K., Anaya, R., Fortune, A. L., & Wilhelm, I. (2023). *How technology is changing student affairs*. The Chronicle of Higher Education Virtual Forum.

Fortune, A. L., & Sin, C. (2023). *The interview: Creating a welcoming campus environment*. GoodCourse.

- Preston, J., & Fortune, A. L., (2022). *Student experience – The big six*. Huron Studer Education Destination High Performance Higher Education Conference.
- Kelly, B. B., Preston, J. & Fortune, A. L. (2022). Vision, leadership, and strategy: Building a first-choice institution. AAC&U Diversity, Equity, and Student Success Conference
- Preston, J., & Fortune, A. L., (2021). Connecting with students: The momentum center. University System of Georgia Momentum Summit.
- Fortune, A. L., (2018). *Is a doctorate right for me?* SWACUHO (Southwest Association of College & University Housing Officers) Mid-Level Drive-in Conference.
- Robinson, J. A. & Fortune, A. L., (2018). *I think I'm ready: Professional development reflections of AVPs aspiring to be VPSA*. Annual NASPA National Conference.
- Bates, T., Busby, J. A., Cockrell, P., Fortune, A. L., & Hylton, L., (2018). *Black males leading from the AVP/AVC "Number Two" role in student affairs*. Annual NASPA National Conference.
- Fortune, A. L., & Robinson, J. A. (2017). *The big picture: Reflections on professional development of AVPs aspiring to the vice presidency*. Annual TACUSPA State Conference.
- Francesco, B., & Fortune, A. L. (2017). *You are what you re-tweet: Leadership in the age of social media*. Expressions in Leadership Conference. University of Texas at Arlington.
- Fortune, A. L., Robinson, J. A., & Murphy, J. (2017). *Lessons learned: Confessions of recent doctoral graduates*. Annual NASPA National Conference.
- Jones, A., Jasinski, L., Fortune, A. L., & Samuel, J. (2016). *How do I know if a doctorate is right for me? Inspiring future doctoral students*. Annual NASPA National Conference.
- Fortune, A. L. (2016). *Me, myself, and don't forget about me: Exploring identity & leadership*. Expressions in Leadership Conference. University of Texas at Arlington.
- Fortune, A. L. (2016). *Probation to graduation and everything in between: Student success and retention in college*. Black Leadership Institute. University of Texas at Arlington.
- Fortune, A. L. (2015). *Practical applications for student affairs: A phenomenological exploration of how Black male undergraduate persisters describe retention and social integration at a Midwestern PWI*. (Doctoral dissertation). ProQuest Dissertations & Theses database.
- Major, L. & Fortune, A. L. (2015). *Allies for diversity: Creating conditions for student well-being. Bringing Theory to Practice, Fall 2015 Newsletter*. Retrieved from <http://www.bttop.org/node/6954>
- Tetreault, P., & Fortune, A. L. (2014). *What is diversity and inclusion?* Academic Advising Association Workshop Series. University of Nebraska-Lincoln.
- Fortune, A. L. (2013). *Why should we go? What should we expect?* Men of Distinction Conference. Metropolitan Community College (Omaha, Nebraska).
- Fortune, A. L., Hall, S., & Sanchez, S. E. (2013). *Retaining students of color: Dish it up!* Kansas-Missouri Summit on Access, Persistence, and Completion. University of Central Missouri.

CERTIFICATION AND DEVELOPMENT

- American Association of State Colleges and Universities Millennium Leadership Initiative 2024-25 Cohort – One of 30 executives selected for prestigious fellowship to enhance preparedness of leaders aspiring to serve as a college president/chancellor; *June 2024-March 2025*

- Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges Annual Meeting – Served as member of team preparing for on-site reaffirmation visits; *December 2022; December 2019*
- Leadership Carroll – Selected for Carroll County Leadership Academy leadership program focused on learning community education, arts, business, and economic development assets and professional development; *March 2021-May 2021*
- NASPA Institute for New Vice Presidents for Student Affairs – Foundational learning and networking experience to prepare new VPs as strategic decision-makers, highly-effective managers, and transformational leaders; *October 2019*
- Advanced Threat Assessment and Management for Universities – Multi-day threat assessment and threat management workshop for universities, presented by renowned forensic psychologist, professor, and author Dr. Reid Meloy; *February 2019*
- Professional Fundraising for Deans and Academic Leaders – Comprehensive fundraising workshop (led by Advancement Resources) exploring essential roles for academic leaders to help donors and potential donors make significant contributions to the institution; *February 2019*
- NASPA Institute for Aspiring Vice Presidents for Student Affairs – Selective and intensive four-day program designed for professionals considering a move to the vice presidency; *January 2019*
- Management and Higher Education Law – Series of workshops and presentations focused best practices for supervisors to legally and effectively manage staff; *January 2019*
- Gavin de Becker & Associates Threat Assessment Training – Workshop emphasizing best practices in threat assessment, case management, and response to crisis; *March 2018*
- NASPA Student Affairs Fundraising Conference – Series of workshops offering strategies, ideas, and resources related to student affairs fundraising and external relations; *July 2018*
- Higher Education Law Conference – Focus on regulations and developments in student legal issues, such as first amendment rights, disability law, and student conduct; *March 2016*
- NaBITA Campus Threat Management Institute – Comprehensive training focused on threat assessment and behavioral intervention policies, procedures, and protocols; *November 2016*
- Sigma Threat Management Associates Threat Assessment Training – Completed multi-day training focused on key components of effective campus threat assessment; *October 2016*
- ATIXA (Association of Title IX Administrators) Civil Rights Investigator Level One Training & Certification Course – Successfully completed intensive two-day training; *June 2015*
- Gehring Academy – Completed Association for Student Conduct Administration (ASCA) curriculum designed for student conduct administrators; *July 2013*

HONORS AND RECOGNITION

- Order of Omega, Omega Kappa Chapter – Recognized for outstanding contributions and support of fraternity and sorority life – University of Texas at Arlington; *Inducted March 2018*
- Who's Who in Black Dallas, *Inducted May 2016*; second award; *September 2017*
- Chancellor's Senior Honorary Society (Innocent's) Inductee – Society focused on leadership and work for betterment of the university – University of Nebraska-Lincoln; *April 2014*