Interface in Times Square

By Margaret Lamb
San Diego Community College District, California

AS I CONTEMPLATED WHICH TOPIC TO CHOOSE FOR MY LAST article as the Professional Board Staff Network (PBSN) President, I took out past editions of Trustee Quarterly in search of inspiration. I turned to the PBSN section of one issue and pondered the big, bold, colorful “Interface” caption that tops each of our sections. According to the Oxford Dictionary, the definition of the word interface is “a point where two systems, subjects, or organizations meet and interact.” There is not a more fitting description of PBSN. Yes, I had found my topic!

Whether it’s through the Interface articles, the PBSN Facebook group, PBSN’s website hosted at acct.org, or the annual professional development workshop sessions, there are so many opportunities for professional board staff to “interface” with their peers and colleagues across the nation. That’s because PBSN’s mission is to provide “a national level resource for those who support governing boards and/or CEOs of community colleges.”

For the past 12 years, I have attended the annual PBSN professional development sessions and business meetings, “interfacing” with fellow professional board staffers from across the country. Many of you also have experienced the benefits of attending these informative sessions and have ardently expressed the value of networking with others who have similar roles and responsibilities. As Sallie Krawcheck, a businesswoman with a reputation for solving corporate problems during times of economic turmoil, once said, “Who you know impacts what you know.”

As my term as PBSN President comes to a close, I asked myself what words of encouragement I could leave you with. The main idea that came to mind? Get involved! I believe I speak for the others on PBSN’s executive committee when I say that while serving on the committee can be challenging at times, the dividends you will reap far outweigh the minor sacrifices involved. It was encouraging to see so many individuals emailing me over this past year asking how to become a member or become more involved with PBSN. The good news is PBSN membership is open to all professional staff who support governing boards or presidents/CEOs of member ACCT institutions. There are no additional dues, because PBSN membership is included in your organization’s annual ACCT dues.

I encourage you to take advantage of the wealth of information and networking available to you through PBSN. Please join the PBSN Facebook group (www.facebook.com/groups/ACCTPBSN), which provides an opportunity to post questions and share information and best practices. We also hope you will be attending the upcoming PBSN networking and professional development sessions, which will take place against the backdrop of New York’s Times Square during the upcoming ACCT Leadership Congress, October 24-27. And please consider becoming involved by running for an executive committee position at the annual business meeting on October 26.

Finally, I would like to thank this year’s PBSN executive committee for their hard work and support. Although we all have extremely demanding schedules, it was our privilege to plan and organize this year’s annual professional development sessions and activities. We hope to see you in New York.

Thank you for a great year!
Meet the 2018 Regional PBSN Awardees

By Amanda Ficken-Davis, San Diego Community College District, California

EACH YEAR, FIVE PROFESSIONAL BOARD STAFF NETWORK members, one from each region, are honored for excellence. Of these five, one is awarded the ACCT Professional Board Staff Network member of the year. The winner will be announced at the upcoming ACCT Leadership Congress in New York City. This year’s regional honorees are:

CENTRAL REGION
Rebecca Garrison, St. Louis Community College, Missouri

Garrison has worked as the Associate for Board Relations at St. Louis Community College for over 19 years. During that time, she earned her bachelor of applied studies in communications from the University of Iowa. She was previously recognized with the Central Region Professional Board Staff Member Award in 2011.

Her colleagues refer to Garrison as an outstanding person with a commitment to and passion for her job. She does not shy away from new and different projects, but jumps right in to achieve outcomes well above the expectations. She is an exemplary team player and an excellent leader who does not allow obstacles to get in the way of progress. Some of her excellent skills and abilities include a professional and respectful attitude, as well as superb analytical and listening skills. She is a great negotiator and consensus builder who is honest, forthright, and has the ability to work with all types of people.

NORTHEAST REGION
Julie Hart, Onondaga Community College, New York

Since 2010, Hart has served as the Executive Assistant to the President and Secretary to the Board of Trustees of Onondaga Community College Board of Trustees in Syracuse, New York. She received her bachelor of arts in English and communications from St. John Fisher College.

Hart's colleagues say that she is an irreplaceable member of the Onondaga Community College family. She is a confident and a trusted member of the team, who is even-tempered and deeply thoughtful in any and every situation, and who dedicates her time and effort to all facets of the college. She is usually the first to respond to a request for volunteers for a campus or community activity. Hart also was recognized for her willingness to take on leadership roles which extend beyond her specific duties, and for the assistance she constantly provides students. Her love for her college, her students, and employees is unmatched.

PACIFIC REGION
Jennifer Delucchi, Los Rios Community College District, California

Delucchi has served as the Chancellor's Executive Officer and Clerk of the Board of Trustees at the Los Rios Community College District for almost seven years. She has a bachelor's degree in organizational communication from CSU Sacramento and an associate degree from Cosumnes River College.

Her colleagues note that during her time in this position, Delucchi's role has evolved to take on a greater scope of responsibilities, entirely as a result of her effectiveness and efficiency. She not only addresses any board or executive needs when they arise, but she also is proactive in anticipating what the organization's leadership may need in the future. She always puts the needs of the organization and its leaders above her own and never asks for credit or commendation, though it is regularly warranted.

Delucchi also is an avid runner, having participated in over 100 races, including the 2016 Boston Marathon. She has participated in 5Ks, half marathons, marathons, and even a triathlon (running, swimming, and biking).

SOUTHERN REGION
Trish Villines, North Arkansas College, Arkansas

Villines has served as the Executive Assistant to the President at North Arkansas College since 2012. In November 2017, she also took on the additional responsibilities of Title III Director after securing a federal grant. She earned a bachelor's degree in communication, journalism, and related programs from the University of Arkansas, followed by a master's degree in public administration from Arkansas State University.

Her colleagues note that Villines' organization and planning abilities were key assets to the board of trustees during its 2016 presidential search, and her institutional knowledge aided the new president in learning about the college and community. She is always willing to take on special projects, and her grant writing skills have helped secure about $2.5 million in funding for the college. These grants have led to exemplary service and offerings for students through the creation of a Health Education Simulation Center, and the federal Title III grant she secured will allow the college to replace its student information system and create a Learning Resource Center.