

Q1.

## 2025 Executive Board - Candidate Application Form

The ACUHO-I Executive Board is a dynamic, diverse, and forward-thinking group of individuals committed to expanding the work of the Association. ACUHO-I is committed to advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion in our profession. We believe our diversity enriches the educational experience and our impact on the profession. Thank you for your interest.

In order to slate the most qualified and representative candidates, the ACUHO-I Nominations Committee uses a number of categories/criteria in its review and slating process. You can find more information on these criteria at <https://www.acuho-i.org/network/elections>.

**Please use this form to submit your application for a 2025 Executive Board position.**

**The Candidate Application closes at 12pm ET (US) on May 23, 2024.**

Q2. Applicant First Name:

Jeff

Q3. Applicant Last Name:

Cooper

Q4. Position Desired:

- Vice President (3 Year Presidential Cycle, 2025-2027)
- Workforce Development Director (3 Year Term, 2025-2027)
- Facilities & Physical Environment Director (2 Year Term, 2025-2026)
- Business Practices and Enhancement Director (2 Year Term, 2025-2026)

Q5. Current College/University:

California State University, Monterey Bay

Q6. Current Job Title:

Director of Student Housing and Residential Life

Q7. Email Address:

Q8. Cell Phone Number:

Q10. Administrative Assistant's Name:

Q11. Administrative Assistant's Email Address:

Q12. Upload a Professional Headshot:



[cooper\\_jeff\\_355\\_csumb\\_headshots\\_090122.jpg](#)

6.7MB

image/jpeg

Q13. Upload a Current Resume:

**Note:** The Nominations Committee will use your resume to evaluate your ability to fulfill the duties of the position for which you are applying. Please review the duties and qualifications for your position of interest in the 2025 board nomination packet and address them within your resume. The 2025 nomination packet can be found here: <https://www.acuho-i.org/network/elections>.

Q14. Upload a Short Bio (Approximately 250 Words):

**Note:** For examples, please see current board bios here: <https://www.acuho-i.org/about/board>

Q20. **Short Answer Prompts:**

**Note:** These short answer prompts allow the membership to evaluate your qualifications for your desired position on the 2025 Executive Board. Your responses will be shared publicly if you are slated. Please respond pertinently, limit your answers to 200 words, and use the relevant EB position description when formulating your answers: <https://www.acuho-i.org/network/elections>.

Q15. **Qualifications:** Please discuss the job positions, professional development activities, and other qualifications that prepare you for the board position for which you are applying.

Please respond pertinently, limit your answers to 200 words, and use the relevant EB position description when formulating your answer: <https://www.acuho-i.org/network/elections>.

Housing and Residence Life Experience Director of Student Housing and Residential Life, California State University, Monterey Bay Director of Housing and Residence Life: Marietta Campus, Kennesaw State University Director of Residence Life, Kennesaw State University Associate Director of Residence Life, Kennesaw State University Director of Residence Life, Lynn University Assistant Director, Residential Life / Coordinator of Staff Development, Rollins College Area Coordinator, The University of Tampa Resident Director, University of South Florida Professional Involvement WACUHO Representative, ACUHO-I Foundation Chair, Mid-Level Leadership Institute, April 2021 – April 2022 Content Developer, Certified Student Affairs Educator Task Force, April 2021 – April 2022 Chair-Elect, Mid-Level Leadership Institute, April 2019 – April 2021 Reviewer, The Journal of College and University Housing, October 2014 - October 2020 Member, Mid-Level Leadership Institute Planning Committee, October 2018 – April 2019 Faculty, Mid-Level Leadership Institute, April 2018 Faculty, National Housing Training Institute, June 2017 Faculty, National Housing Training Institute, June 2018 Member, Annual Conference and Exposition Host Committee, June 2008 NASPA Program Reviewer, Annual Conference, October 2004 – October 2009, October 2014 SEAHO Program Committee, February 2009 – February 2012 Chair, Georgia Housing Officers Annual Conference, October 2010 - October 2011 State Editor, Florida Housing Officers, May 2007 – June 2008 Adviser, Florida Association of Residence Halls, February 2002 – February 2004

Q16. **Thought Leadership and Technical Credibility:** Please describe what you would bring to the board in the realm of this competency (as defined below).

Understands and keeps up to date on local, national, and international policies and trends that affect housing and residence life. Is aware of the organization's impact on the external environment and has pride in the campus housing profession. Is considered a thought-leader with a commitment to continuous learning about ACUHO-I organization. This includes a foundational understanding of the organizational structure, culture, and core programs/services to support the mission of ACUHO-I. Possesses an area of expertise that helps the Association meet one or more of its strategic initiatives. Understands and appropriately applies principles, related to specialized expertise in campus housing and other areas of importance.

Please respond pertinently, limit your answers to 200 words, and use the relevant EB position description when formulating your answer: <https://www.acuho-i.org/network/elections>.

I have worked in housing and residence life for over 25 years in large, small, public, and private environments. I currently oversee an integrated program with business and finance, operations, communication and marketing, facilities, and residence life functions. I have served in several roles within ACUHO-I including the Mid-Level Leadership Institute, NHTI, the Journal of College and University Student Housing, and most recently the ACUHO-I Foundation. The work of university housing changes lives and many of the core principles of campus living are as true today as they were fifty years ago. I am proud of the collective impact we, as housing and residence life professionals, have had on the lives of students over the years. I am also increasingly concerned about the evolving demands of our students and stakeholders and how prepared we are systemically to respond. I see the toll these demands take on our colleagues, our staff, and our resources and feel the industry will need to evolve. In the Business Practices and Enhancement Director role, I can use my familiarity with the association and its resources and my professional background to help us find ways to meet the challenges we face.

**Q17. Leveraging Diversity and Perspectives:** Please describe what you would bring to the board in the realm of this competency (as defined below).

Fosters an inclusive environment where diversity and individual differences are valued and leveraged to achieve the vision and mission of the organization. Treats others with courtesy, sensitivity, and respect. Listens effectively; clarifies information as needed and is open to change and new information; rapidly adapts to new information, changing conditions, or unexpected obstacles. Prioritizes the best interests of the board, organization, and members over individual priorities, such as pet projects and personal advancement. Encourages and supports a positive culture between volunteer leaders, staff, and members. Willingness to solve problems as a group.

Please respond pertinently, limit your answers to 200 words, and use the Association's DEI statement (<https://www.acuho-i.org/about/inclusion>) and the relevant EB position description when formulating your answer: <https://www.acuho-i.org/network/elections>.

We live in a time where it is increasingly important to be able to listen and show respect for diverse values and opinions. To do so, we have to bring diverse perspectives to the table and find common ground to build from. Minimally, our collective commitment to the industry and student success creates that foundation, but we must actively ensure forums and decisions represent the collective interests of the association. My degree in counseling affords me facilitation skills that I have used successfully during my MLLI and NHTI experience to create meaning. I was one of the two MLLI chairs who served the institute when it was virtual illustrating how we can take a less than ideal situation and make it rewarding. For example, while unable to bring everyone together for an in-person experience, we leaned into accessibility and yielded participants from across the globe. I plan to bring this same aptitude to my work with the Executive Board, assigned workgroups, members, and Corporate Partners.

**Q18. Strategic Thinking:** Please describe what you would bring to the board in the realm of this competency (as defined below).

Board members should be able to provide both strategic and innovative thought leadership. Strategic thinking involves analyzing issues and making decisions that support the organization's overarching mission. Board members with the capacity for innovative thinking make new ideas and solutions possible. Articulate current conditions and anticipate future trends that impact campus housing programs. Ability to influence strategic direction and collaborate with ACUHO-I to create programs and services that meet the need of campus housing professionals. Ability to embrace an adaptable and flexible mindset.

Please respond pertinently, limit your answers to 200 words, and use the relevant EB position description when formulating your answer: <https://www.acuho-i.org/network/elections>.

The issues our industry faces may vary across region, but I feel some common trends exist. For years, we have grappled with increases in student mental health, but that has been compounded by the pandemic. We also face significant challenges to diversity and inclusion efforts. Our staff and colleagues feel these strains as much as our students. Enrollment shortages over the next few years will lead to increased competition between institutions while simultaneously creating budget and resource constraints. In my opinion, these challenges create opportunities for us to use a growth mindset, "unlearn what we have learned," and innovate our work. For example, I have been a strong proponent of increasing the number of single bedroom options we maintain and construct. Doing so can create competitive market potential while alleviating many of the occupancy demands we face to support mental and physical health needs. In this role, I would use this lens and work within my areas of responsibility to collaborate with stakeholders on ideas and initiatives that help us all move forward.

**Q19. Developing Others:** Please describe what you would bring to the board in the realm of this competency (as defined below).

Develops the ability of others to perform and contribute to the organization by providing ongoing feedback and opportunities to learn through formal and informal methods.

Please respond pertinently, limit your answers to 200 words, and use the relevant EB position description when formulating your answer: <https://www.acuho-i.org/network/elections>.

Developing others is the core of what we do as educators. My work with the association institutes focused on helping colleagues become a more skilled version of themselves. When I stood in front of my regional meeting to speak about the Foundation, I told stories about how the association has helped develop me and how I have tried to pay it forward. Similar to my ongoing work, I would use this role to help identify other thought leaders that can not only contribute to the conversation, but also serve as future leaders of the organization. While I routinely recognize those who are emerging, I also seek out those who may not be stepping forward, but need the extra nudge to contribute. I practiced both methods in my MLLI chair role and continue to tap colleagues who I feel we need to hear from.