



Oregon Association of Student Councils

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Dear COSA and the OASC Family –

It is with a heavy heart that I submit my resignation as the Executive Director of OASC effective September 1, 2020. September 1st is my 10-year anniversary serving as ED of this great organization. OASC has a history of serving our schools, advisers, student leaders and alumni since 1949 - It's the connections and relationships that have made the hard work worth it! It's been truly an honor to be a part of so many lives, witness growth and change before my eyes.

OASC has been a part of my life since 1989 and the organization and people involved in it mean the world to me. I have always worked hard to make sure that when the day came, I would be able to leave OASC better than I found it (which was a large feat considering the greatness of Nancy Moen who came before me). COVID-19 has financially impacted OASC similar to many other businesses / organizations that depend on in person events. We are in turbulent times without revenue coming in but yet the need for support and voice is greater than ever.

Thankfully, we grew our reserves over the last decade which has helped us through spring and summer – but our financial situation won't be able to sustain OASC through fall without a change in structure and system. It's time for me to move on, not only for my personal mental and physical health but the health and growth of the organization as well. My resignation will provide more flexibility to the organization in order to continue serving its members.

"Change is the only constant" – Heraclitus.

I will work with the COSA Executive Director and the OASC Board on a transition and sustainability plan. I hope I've made you proud in leaving OASC better than I found it. I know I'm better then when I started and that's because of so many of you and the connections and relationships I've made. You have supported me, had tough conversations with me, questioned me, challenged me and motivated me to do and be better for our schools and students – I will be forever grateful for this opportunity. It's time for me to "fly with her own wings" and discover who I am without wearing my OASC hat (however, in reality we know my whole closet is full of OASC gear that won't be going away anytime soon).

With much OASC love,

Sara S. Nilles



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Just a few of the things our board and student leaders have accomplished under my leadership the past 10 years that I am most proud:

- Communication / Resources
 - Adviser Shared Google Drive
 - Private FB group for Advisers
 - Newsletters, Blogs, Subscriber Lists, Website
 - Brought on Communications / Marketing Consultant (Katie) to increase and improve our online presence, newsletters and content development.
- Technology Improvements
 - Updated Website, adding social media
 - Online forms, registration
 - Online Summer Camp Registration
- Creation of the unofficial Alumni Association
 - Increased communication and participation from our alumni
 - Alumni Spotlights / Web / Social Media presence
 - Alumni Safety Squad at our conferences
- Increased Visibility on National Platforms
 - Helped to host the NatStuCo Conference at Century HS in 2016
 - Currently Vice President of the National Association of State Student Council Executive Directors
 - Presented and represented OASC at a variety of National Conferences
- Act. Serve. Lead.
 - Increased and improved branding across the organization
 - Increased clothing / swag sales to share who we are and share our message
- Increasing our reserves from \$4,000 to over \$100,000 in 10 years (although dwindling fast because of COVID – thankful we had it)
- Leadership Without Borders
 - Helped to lead and organize 4 international service trips (DR x2, Nicaragua, Peru)
 - Global citizenship
- Went from 2 summer programs to 4
 - Brought back Middle School Camp
 - Added Adviser Leadership Institute
- Equity, Diversity and Inclusion
 - Supported and advocated for Students of Color to sit on state boards, committees and have their voices at the table and heard.
 - Worked to change language in our policies and practices to allow more diversity on our appointed and elected board.
 - Added anti hate / discrimination language to our code of conducts and policies
 - Worked with the board to create the opportunity fund to support underrepresented schools to attend OASC events.
 - Increased our scholarship fund “Friends of OASC” from serving only 10-20 students each year to over 70 each year for the last 7 years.
 - Creation of Equity & Anti-Racism Committee to continue to move OASC forward
- Mental Health Awareness, Support and Advocacy
 - Partnership with Providence Health Systems
 - Creation of #work2bewell
 - Passing mental health legislation with Students for a Healthy Oregon
 - Creating the Mental Health Summit 2019 & 2020
 - Partnered with Oregon YouthLine to provide training and resources
- Citizenship and Advocacy
 - Creation of the Capitol Ambassadors Program (2014-2015)
 - Supported through time, resources and funding
 - 6 years of annual trips to the capitol
 - Student leaders using their voice to help pass the Student Success Act