

Anna Schmidt-MacKenzie

I have spent the past six years at the University of Oregon in my role as Director of Residence Life and Educational Initiatives. My and my team's goal is to create inclusive environments in the residence halls that contribute to student success at UO. During my time here, I have been excited to work on the increased presence of academic initiatives and collaborations within the residence halls. Partnering with faculty and our staff to positively impact the student experience is the highlight of my career-and is reflective of my commitment to partnering with academic and university stakeholders to serve our students. Specifically, we are continuing to develop our Academic Residential Communities (ARCs), residential curriculum, Faculty Fellow and Faculty in Residence (FIR) programs. These initiatives are considered high impact practices – and are emblematic of our approach to creating a dynamic community of scholars.

I have also been humbled and honored to collaborate on cross-divisional committees designed to define student success at the University, and set a foundation for a student experience rooted in common goals and mission. I would be honored to continue this work within the University Senate. I would like to serve as a voice and perspective within the time honored tradition of shared governance. I would also like to better understand the various other perspectives and investments in long standing traditions, and innovative changes for the near future.

We find ourselves at a pivotal time-for the University and for higher education more broadly. The global pandemic has forced us, and the academy to critically examine itself from an axiological perspective. It is important for us to consider what we provide for students-not merely from a financial rate of return, but in the areas of global citizenship, responsibility and ethical care for others. I would love the opportunity to commit the Senate's work to a student experience and education with this in mind. I believe we have the opportunity to use the past year-as challenging as it may have been-as a springboard to rejuvenate what the educational journey is for our students.