New York Members Shine

Derek Schmelter – NYSSMA®-NAfME Collegiate President, Queens College

Greetings music educators! First off, I would like to thank The College of Saint Rose chapter members and Dr. Jennifer Campbell for hosting the 2020 Biennial State Collegiate NYSSMA® Summit. I hope that those who were able to attend the event in Albany enjoyed networking with their fellow collegiate members and learning from presenters from across the state! Again, thank you Chapter #297 for a job well done!

New York State highlights

The Nazareth College NAfME Chapter has made inclusivity, communication and professional development its priorities over the past two years. The chapter, led by Morgan Beaton, has provided a variety of initiatives, such as instrument repair workshops, arrangements for chapter members to attend conferences and local workshops, as well as sponsoring a club bonding experience.

This increase in engagement and participation earned them a NAfME Chapter of Excellence Award for Recruitment in 2019! Other events the chapter has offered include a “Music Is for Everyone” week in which members provided music educators and music education majors with ideas for making a more inclusive classroom; a session on “Yoga for Musicians,” and an apparel fundraiser to help members attend conferences like the NYSSMA® majorexebraals and concerts and with the NYSSMA® majors festival hosted at Hofstra University.

We are all doing great things with music and I want the world to know about them!

Kimberly Rosenbaum is our Province 7 Representative, which covers our Long Island collegiate chapters. She has done amazing work implementing one of my core objectives during this term: Building a Community. As our Province 7 Representative, she has collaborated with chapters around Long Island to assist with NMEA rehearsals and concerts and with the NYSSMA® majorexebraals and concerts and with the NYSSMA® majors festival hosted at Hofstra University.

Kimberly communicates regularly with her province chapters and even sends out monthly updates that feature upcoming province and chapter-wide events. As a member of Hofstra’s NAfME Executive Board, Kimberly created and managed the Hofstra Music Freshman Newsletter, which gave chapter members an opportunity to share their expertise and advice by submitting articles and answering common questions for the freshman class.

In addition to the Newsletter, Kimberly organized a marching band clinic that hosted collegiate students from Hofstra, Five Towns College, and Long Island University. She is also the Hofstra Chapter President and established a semester-long service project working with local high schools. What I admire the most is her desire to break down the walls between our schools and bring everyone together to learn and grow as future music educators every chance she gets. Thank you, Kimberly, for all you have done for your province and chapter these past few years!

Upcoming events

We are in the midst of our State Collegiate Executive Board Elections, which is a very important time for NYSSMA® collegiate chapters. This is YOUR opportunity to apply to be one of the people who works with student leaders across the state to build our collegiate community! If you are interested in any position, please fill out an application and submit to Dr. Koster by March 25.

In closing

I love talking about the awesome work collegiate members are doing to bring our music education communities together. If you have something to share with the state about what YOU and your chapter are organizing, participating in or learning about, send me an email (dschmeltermusic@gmail.com) or reach out to us on Instagram or Facebook. We are all doing great things with music and I want the world to know about them!

All the best,
Derek Schmelter