

ANNY 2018 Election: Candidate Bio and Statement

Bryan Dowling (Borough of Manhattan Community College, CUNY)

Brief Personal Bio:

I received my PhD in Neuroscience from the City University of New York and a Masters degree in Research Methodology from Hunter College. Post-graduation I worked in the Psychology Department at Hunter College, primarily developing and managing a Research and Fieldwork Placement Program, and teaching as an Adjunct Associate Professor. The placement program necessitated advance assessment skills - my background in research methods was beneficial, but transitioning to true assessment had a steep learning curve. Within three months, I put together a Departmental Assessment Committee, created a mission statement, program outcomes, and course outcomes for the department, and lead the department through the assessment process. It was quite a challenge at the start, but it laid the groundwork for assessment activities that are still running ten years later. My work in assessment garnered the attention of our Provost and I was invited to sit on the Provost's Assessment Advisory board, then the Senate Assessment Committee, and then was asked to be part of a committee for our PRR. Within a year, my job focus shifted dramatically towards assessment at the program level and college-wide. The work paid off, and last summer I was hired at the Borough of Manhattan Community College as their Assessment Director. I stepped into a world where nearly all programs and administrative units are doing some type of assessment. While I spend a good deal of time deep in the weeds of assessment, helping our programs and administrative units, the level at which assessment is taking place has allowed me develop skills and experience in institutional research, strategic planning, and analytics (which will start in the fall). My experience is quite broad. I've worked at so many different levels I am able to understand and relate to assessment from all points of view.

Statement of Interest:

My introduction to assessment was head first. In 2014 I attended my first ANNY conference. I'd been to larger conferences, but at the advice of a colleague, I joined ANNY. That was a turning point - individuals sharing the same goals, an atmosphere that encouraged discussion and engagement in a close-knit environment. ANNY members provided a wealth of practical knowledge that I hadn't been exposed to. I have been an active member ever since. I've had my eye on the ANNY board, but waited until I knew I could have an impact. It isn't about career advancement, bragging rights, or glory - it is a true desire to get involved with an organization I feel passionately about. To see it grow organically without dampening the original spirit. I most look forward to increasing awareness across CUNY. We are a university system of 22 colleges and nearly 300,000 students, but our participation in ANNY is not where it should be. I have colleagues that barely even know about us. As a member of the CUNY-wide assessment council I already have ideas for how to get people involved next year. I would love to see ANNY in NYC. For some, a 45 minute drive is easy, but for NYC residents, it's akin to "upstate" and often prohibitive. Our Provost is onboard with me sending faculty next year to gain expertise they can bring back to colleagues. We did a panel of faculty members at our assessment day and the conversations that took place were fantastic - they were learning from each other - I barely had to say a word. Finally, I have a supervisor that is extremely supportive of my candidacy and has assured me that he will make any concessions needed so I can fulfill my duties to the board.