

Dear Virginia ACDA,

My name is Kole Butler, and I am a first-year graduate student studying choral conducting/music education at Radford University. I am very excited to begin working with this organization, especially in the *Student Chapter Representative* role. During my short time in Virginia, I have already experienced a lot of truly amazing music-making at both the collegiate and high school levels—you all should be very proud of the work that you and your colleagues are doing in this beautiful state.

During my undergraduate degree at West Virginia University, I served as our ACDA student chapter president. Now at RU, I am serving as the graduate mentor for our student chapter. I believe that all student chapters have the unique ability to help pre-service music educators acquire knowledge and skills that the degree programs do not have time to teach. This allows ACDA to begin an important and continual relationship with our future choral conductor-teachers.

Radford's ACDA and NafME student chapters recently welcomed Dr. Jennifer Sengin (from Georgia State University) as an artist in residence. She worked with our various choirs, and choral conducting students (undergraduate and graduate), and presented a session on the benefits of movement in the choral classroom. Overall, her visit was extremely beneficial to all involved, especially our music education majors.

Radford University's ACDA student chapter has also hit the ground running on preparations for the upcoming 2023 ACDA National Conference in Cincinnati, OH. We have a total of five students attending the conference and have acquired almost 95% of the funds to attend. I cannot wait to see what awaits us in February. I certainly hope to see some fellow Virginians there.

Warmest regards,  
Kole Butler