

Wisconsin Association of Educational Opportunity Program Personnel

# McNair/SSS Graduate School Retreat

Friday and Saturday, September 28 and 29, 2018

Chula Vista Resort, Wisconsin Dells, WI

**Featured Presenter: Donald Asher**



Donald Asher is one of the nation's foremost authorities on the graduate school admissions process. Tens of thousands of students have seen his lectures, tapes and teleconferences. He is the author of numerous books including *Graduate Admissions Essays*, the best-selling guide to graduate admissions.

# Participant comments from the 2017 WAEOPP McNair/SSS Graduate School Retreat

*"I have never been so hopeful for the future!"*

*"I feel more confident about my decision of going to a grad school than before."*

*"I loved Don Asher! He was outstanding. His delivery is on point, very engaging."*

*"This conference was wonderful I feel like it gave me the much needed tools and confidence to get my graduate degree."*

*"Amazing insight and info!"*

*"Don Asher does a good job of encouraging students to focus on their strengths and maintain the course in pursuit of the higher education, whether a Master's Degree or Ph.D. program."*

## Workshop Topics

### Getting Into Graduate School

Why earn a graduate degree?

Challenges of 1<sup>st</sup> generation and underrepresented students in graduate school

How to discover the top programs in your field of study

How to select the right program for you

Three main ways to make your application stand out against the competition

How not to "freak out" about the GRE

The reasons some 4.0 students are not admitted and some 2.8 students are and receive funding

How to represent low grades, low GRE scores and other difficulties in the best possible light

### Funding Graduate School

Funding for graduate school: fellowships, assistantships and other funding sources

### Statement of Purpose

How to write a truly outstanding statement of purpose

Five techniques that will improve any student's essay

How personal should the statement of purpose be: sciences vs. humanities

What type of help you can get with preparing your statement of purpose:  
legitimate vs. illegitimate help

### Application Considerations

How should you complete the application form?

What information is requested and why?

Why do these types of details really matter?

## Conference Agenda

Friday, September 28

4:00 – 7:00 PM

4:45 – 6:00 PM

5:15 – 6:00 PM

6:15 – 7:15 PM

7:15 – 8:30 PM

Registration

Dinner

Graduate Student Panel

Networking

Breakout Sessions

1) Grad School 101

Is it for me? Benefits of completing a postgraduate degree. What are the different types of postgraduate study?

2) Preparing Personal Statements

Social/Networking at the Waterpark

8:30 – 10:00 PM

Saturday, September 29

8:00 – 9:00 AM

9:00 – 10:00 AM

10:00 – 10:30 AM

10:30 AM – 12:00 Noon

12:00 Noon – 1:00 PM

1:15 – 3:00 PM

3:00 – 3:15 PM

3:15 – 5:15 PM

5:15 – 5:30 PM

5:30 – 7:00 PM

7:00 – 9:00 PM

Breakfast

Don Asher: Getting Into Graduate School

Break/Check Out of Hotel

Don Asher: Getting Funded

Lunch

Don Asher's Presentation Continues

Break

Don Asher's Presentation Continues

Wrap-up/Evaluation

Dinner On Your Own

Debriefing With Program Staff/Planning for Sharing upon Return to Campus

## Registration Information

**The registration fee is \$195.00 per person**

The fee includes all meals, materials and sessions.

**WAEOPP does not accept credit cards.** Payment must be made via check. Invoices will be provided upon request.

A late fee of \$25 will be assessed to all unpaid registrants if the fee has not been received within 60 days of invoicing. Any registration fees that are still past due beyond 90 days of the Association sponsored event, will be assessed a \$50 late fee.

**Registration is due Friday, September 14, 2018.**

Refunds will not be granted for registrations cancelled after Wednesday, September 19 as the meal count is due to Chula Vista on that date.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1V4pSZRoo0PrCM4NucNkeigKTHFoFyXoDXCxfbAKuvvE/edit>

CLICK LINK ABOVE

## Hotel Information

**You are responsible for making your room reservations.**

Chula Vista Resort, Wisconsin Dells, WI

Phone: 1-877-917-3831

Please refer to booking ID#**F71560** when making your lodging reservations

WAEOPP McNair/SSS Retreat

**The cutoff date for room reservations at the conference rate is Friday, September 14**

Room Rates:                \$120.00 per guest room – tower accommodations  
Each guest room contains 2 queen beds  
The daily resort fee is waived.

Please check with Chula Vista prior to your arrival regarding the hours the waterpark is open. Retreat participants are invited to arrive early on Friday, September 28 to take advantage of the waterpark facilities.

Each person registered in a guest room will receive a complimentary waterpark pass.

All guest rooms and meeting room areas have complimentary high speed wireless internet.

Guest room rates do not include the current tax of 12.25%.

**If your institution is tax exempt in the state of Wisconsin, please email a copy of the tax exempt certificate and your reservation number(s) to:  
[robind@chulavistaresort.com](mailto:robind@chulavistaresort.com)**

Reservation Deposit: All lodging reservations require a one night deposit plus taxes and fees at the time the reservation is made.

Payments can be via credit card, check or approved purchase order. No personal checks are accepted at check-in or two weeks prior to arrival.

Reservation Cancellations:

Reservations cancelled 72 hours or more in advance of arrival will receive a refund less a \$30.00 processing fee. All cancellations will receive a cancellation number to verify the time, date and accuracy of the cancellations received by Chula Vista.

Cancellations inside the 72 hour cancellation period will forfeit the full deposit amount.

All reservations made inside a cancellation period are considered non-cancellable will forfeit the full deposit amount.

“Early check outs” will incur a fee of one night’s room and tax if departure takes place prior to the arranged departure date.

The room rates are available three days prior and three days after the Retreat.  
Check-in time is 4:00 PM; check-out time is 10:30 AM.

Chula Vista's website: [www.chulavistaresort.com](http://www.chulavistaresort.com)

## **Retreat Contact**

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