

# Application Form

## Profile

**If you have any questions or difficulty submitting this application, please reach out to Alex Guzhnay at [aguzhnay@newhavenct.gov](mailto:aguzhnay@newhavenct.gov) or call 203-946-7670.**

<u>Lisa</u>	<u>C.o.</u>	<u>Bran</u>
First Name	Middle Initial	Last Name

brandesl1@southernct.edu  
Email Address

<u>162 Willard Street</u>	<u></u>
Home Address	Suite or Apt

<u>New Haven</u>	<u>CT</u>	<u>06515</u>
City	State	Postal Code

### What ward do you live in (optional - please select ward if you know)?

Ward 25

<u>Mobile: (203) 671-9383</u>	<u></u>
Primary Phone	Alternate Phone

### Are any of the above number a cell phone number?

Yes  No

### If so, which? Also, is it okay to send a text message?

yes

### Are you currently employed by the City of New Haven or the New Haven Public School System?

Yes  No

<u>Retired from Yale University, now a Grad Student at SCSU</u>	<u>Student Affairs, Director of the McDougal Center, Yale Grad School</u>
Employer	Job Title

To see our list of Boards and Commissions please click here: <https://newhaven-ct.granicus.com/boards/w/976a34cad711af7c/boards>

## Which Boards would you like to apply for?

---

Aging Commission: Submitted  
Cultural Affairs Commission: Submitted  
Development Commission: Submitted  
Historic District Commission: Submitted  
New Haven Parking Authority: Submitted  
Tweed New Haven Airport Authority Board: Submitted  
Commission on Parks, Programs, & Recreational Facilities: Submitted

## Is this an appointment or reappointment request? \*

---

Appointment

---

## Interests & Experiences

Please tell us about yourself and why you want to serve. Please attach any of the follow:

**Resume, Curriculum Vitae (CV), Professional Bio, or a Statement of Interest.**

[Brandes Resume\\_general\\_8-2025\\_4\\_page\\_Rev.doc](#)

Upload a Resume

**If not submitting a Resume or CV, please submit a ~150 word Statement of Interest as to why you are interested in serving on your selected boards/commissions. If you have uploaded a resume OR you are seeking reappointment, you can write n/a.**

---

resume submitted

## Why are you interested in serving on a board or commission?

---

Originally from Louisiana, I have spent my adult life in New Haven, where I have engaged with the city and its residents as a graduate student, renter, homeowner, voter, university employee, parent of a NHPS graduate, volunteer, consumer, transit user, activist and event participant. Living in Westville for 27 years, my family and I have watched and tried to help the city continue to grow to serve all of its residents and visitors. I have always found the deep history, diverse peoples, and creative spirit of New Haven energizing and welcoming. For 25 years, I served as the Founding Director of the McDougal Graduate Student Center where I led a team to create events and services to welcome, engage, and build community for Yale's 3,000 graduate school students. In my work, I developed great appreciation for and established strong collaborative relationships with city staff and services, merchants, non-profits, and other residents. I am a huge cheerleader for New Haven, as neighbors and colleagues will tell you. My experience as a Fall 2025 Graduate of New Haven Democracy School increased my general knowledge about the City and my interest in serving.

**Why do you believe you would be a good fit for your selected board and commission(s)?**

I retired early and now am taking classes part-time at SCSU in Tourism & Hospitality, Public Policy, especially Local and State Government, and Local History, so I want to give back by serving on a Board or Commission. I am actively engaged in our community as a Board Member of the Shubert Theater and the Westville Village Renaissance Alliance (WVRA), as VP for Events for the Yale Club of New Haven, the local Yale Alumni Association group, and am a volunteer with DESK, Trinity Church on the Green, New Haven Promise, United Way of GNH, Town Green District Events, and various political campaigns. I enjoy discussing public policy issues and seek to provide just and responsive government services. I feel I could best contribute my expertise, connections, enthusiasm, and interest especially in areas like Cultural Affairs, Tweed New Haven Airport Authority, City Plan, Parking Authority, or others as indicated. For example, I could help the Cultural Affairs Commission plan events to celebrate the arts and the varied histories of our city and assist city cultural stakeholders to promote economic development through increased and sustainable tourism. Or I might participate in Parking Authority plans to promote parking and its intermodal transit connections for residents, students and visitors. I look forward to using my time and talents serving New Haven in a new role on a Board or Commission if selected.

**Do you have any time commitments that would prevent you from participating in board/commission meetings? Meeting times can be found by visiting newhavenct.gov/boards, but most are usually once a month for 1-2 hours.**

no

---

**Demographics**

**Some boards and commissions require membership to be politically proportionate, per State Statute on minority party representation (CGS § 9-167a). What is your political affiliation on your voter registration (i.e Democrat, Republican, Unaffiliated, Independent, etc)?**

Democrat

**In order to stay compliant with our city's charter, are you registered to vote in New Haven?**

Yes  No

We strive to maintain diversity in all of our Boards and Commissions. These questions are optional and if you volunteer the information we will only use it to ensure that our boards and commissions are diverse.

**Ethnicity**

Caucasian/Non-Hispanic

**Gender**

Female

**How did you hear about serving on our Boards & Commissions?**

Friends and neighbors, Mayor, Democracy School.

**LISA CATHERINE OLGA BRANDES**  
Westville - New Haven, Connecticut 06515

[lisaco.brandes@gmail.com](mailto:lisaco.brandes@gmail.com)  
[brandesl1@southernct.edu](mailto:brandesl1@southernct.edu)

mobile: 203-671-9383  
LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/lisa-brandes-a96a933/>

**SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS**

Locally engaged and city-focused public advocate, researcher, event planner, and writer; active non-profit board member and volunteer; currently SCSU graduate student in history, politics, and tourism. Creative, high-energy leader and director, now retired, and former faculty member; expertise in building community, academic and student support services for diverse populations of undergraduate and graduate students in various educational settings.

**EDUCATION**

Ph.D. **Yale University**, Political Science, Graduate School of Arts & Sciences, New Haven, CT  
Dissertation: "Public Opinion, International Security Policy, and Gender: The United States and Great Britain Since 1945"

B.A. **Louisiana State University (LSU), Baton Rouge**, Political Science  
magna cum laude, with College Honors and Thesis Honors

Certificate,  
in progress

**Southern Connecticut State University**, School of Graduate & Professional Studies, New Haven, CT  
Currently enrolled student, Graduate Certificate program in American History. GPA: 4.0

Taking Courses in History, Political Science and Tourism:

**History** – HIS 262: CT History; HIS 259: Digital New Haven Project; HIS 552: Remembering the American Revolution; HIS 340: The Crusades.

**Political Science** – PSC 511: State and Local Politics, Spring 2025, Research Paper: "Visit CT: CT State Tourism Policy – A Comparative Public Policy Analysis with Recommendations."

**Tourism, Hospitality & Event Management (THEM)** – THE 321: Destination New England; THE 323: Tourism Principles and Practices; THE 260: Introduction to THEM

**WORK EXPERIENCE – paid employment**

**1996-2021, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut**

**Assistant Dean for Student Affairs and Director, Office of Graduate Student Life, McDougal Graduate Student Center,**

**Graduate School of Arts and Sciences and Office of the Vice-President for Student Life**

- Appointed in 1996 as the founding Director of the McDougal Graduate Student Center, a multi-million-dollar student life programmatic initiative and facility in the Yale Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (GSAS)
- Led programs to build community and provide student services for 3,000 students at Yale Graduate School, and professional students and postdocs and their family members
- Created and supervised robust graduate student life, academic support and professional development services in an integrated academic and student affairs program;
- Connected students & families with campus and community resources, organizations and events year round
- Selected, trained & oversaw 19 graduate student life Fellows, part-time student program assistants who organized activities in to provide over 120 holistic events per year in areas of arts & culture, blue dog café, family life, international, public service, religious & spiritual life, social life, sports & recreation, wellness & health; coordinate activities, communications, budgets, and program evaluation
- Managed facilities, professional staff, student staff and program budgets of over \$350,000 annually
- In a highly decentralized student affairs environment, coordinated with student services offices in housing, health, mental health, dining, transit, security, religious life, international students, worklife, sustainability, etc.
- Served on GSAS Dean's Senior Staff, making policy and implementing new initiatives
- Oversaw initiatives in the office of the VP for Student Life and help lead the Advisory Committee on Student Life
- Directed and coordinated major Graduate School events including weeklong New Student Orientation, GSAS Dean's Receptions and Lectures, and GSAS Commencement, with hospitality and logistics for up to 2,200 people
- Major responsibilities: *Student Life; New Student Recruitment, Transitions and Orientation; Diversity, Women's and Student Parent Programs; Student Organizations and Government; Crisis Management and Personal Advising; Global Education and International Student Service; Project Management; Facility Management*

**1995-96, Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Government, Wesleyan University, Middletown, Connecticut**

Full time visiting faculty member, taught four undergraduate courses per year in the subfield of international relations and world politics

- advised majors and first-year students
- supervised senior these projects
- organized curricular and co-curricular programs
- served the university community on committees

**1991-95, Assistant Professor/Instructor, Department of Political Science, Tufts University, Medford, Massachusetts**

Full time faculty member teaching 4 undergraduate courses per year in international relations and politics, foreign policy and security studies

- advised large number of PS and IR majors and first-year students
- supervised several independent study and senior thesis projects
- organized curricular and co-curricular programs
- served university on women's studies & peace studies program committee, and as orientation faculty leader
- taught and advised ROTC and military students, collaborated with military science faculty & ROTC units
- advised student organization and participated in faculty roundtables

**HONORS AND AWARDS, selected**

- 2023 Outstanding Professional Award, Administrators in Graduate and Professional Student Services (AGAPSS) Knowledge Community, NASPA.
- Various awards for Teaching, Student Leadership, Public Service.
- Fellowships and Grants including Title IV Course Grant and NSF Graduate Research Fellowship.
- MacArthur Graduate Fellowship in Security Studies, Yale University. National Merit Scholar.

**COMMUNITY SERVICE AND INVOLVEMENT**

**Southern CT State University**

- Student member, Graduate Student Association (GSA, graduate student council)
- Adult Learner Office Volunteer
- History club member

**Civic & Volunteer Activism, Greater New Haven:**

- Westville Village Renaissance Alliance, Past President; current Board Member and volunteer, neighborhood revitalization, arts, and historic preservation group, CT Main Streets Affiliate, 2000-present. <http://Westvillect.org>
- Volunteer & fundraiser, Development Committee, Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen (DESK), 1998-present.
- Shubert Theater, Board of Directors, 2024-present. Member of Education and External Relations Comm.
- International Festival of Arts & Ideas – Gala Committee Volunteer, 2023.
- Yale Alumni Club of New Haven (YCNH), Board of Directors - Vice President, Events; Committee Co-Chair, 2017-present. Planned events & outreach for local Yale alumni, fundraising for student scholarships in NH area.
- Ambassador and Parent Volunteer, New Haven Promise.
- Women United of United Way of Greater New Haven, Steering Committee & Volunteer, 2020- present
- Champion, Yale Campaign for United Way of Greater New Haven, 2005-2015. Leadership donor.
- Friends of Edgewood Park, West River Watershed and Friends of New Haven Green, volunteer for cleanup days and community events.
- New Haven Museum, New Haven Preservation Trust – active volunteer and supporting member.
- Trinity Episcopal Church on the Green, member and volunteer, 2017-present.
- First and Summerfield United Methodist church, volunteer, various lay leadership roles, 1998-2015.

**Political Activism:** Democratic Town Committee, 25<sup>th</sup> Ward, New Haven; campaigning for local and national elections

- Public Testimony & Advocacy, CT General Assembly, on Transportation, and Arts, Culture & Tourism 2024-25.
- Public Participation & Comment: Tweed New Haven HVN Airport Authority Mtgs; Community Mgmt. Team.

**STUDENT AFFAIRS PUBLICATIONS**

**Co-Author,** “Supporting Graduate and Professional Student Success: Celebrating 25 Years of NASPA’s Administrators in

Graduate and Professional Student Services Knowledge Community.” Matthew Imboden and Lisa C. O. Brandes. NASPA Leadership Exchange, Summer 2023 <https://www.naspa.org/leadershipexchange/summer-2023>

**Author:** “Introduction” with Katherine Hall Hertel and Valerie Shepard and sole Author, “Appendix of Resources and Associations.” A Practitioner’s Guide to Supporting Graduate and Professional Students, edited by Valerie Shepard and April Perry. February 2022. Routledge. [Book link](#)

**Author:** “Graduate Student Centers: Building Community and Involving Students,” in Supporting Graduate and Professional Students: The Role of Student Affairs. Edited by Melanie Guentzel and Becki Elkins. New Directions in Student Services #115, Fall 2006. Jossey-Bass <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/ss.218/abstract>

**Co-Author:** Jessica Edonick, Katherine Hall-Hertel and Lisa Brandes, “Graduate Students...They Need An Orientation Too!?” Spring 2012 NASPA KC publication, page 3-4, <http://www.naspa.org/kc/KCspring.pdf>

**Co-Author:** “Broadening the Reach of Student Affairs: Graduate & Professional Student Services.” Lisa C.O.Brandes and Katherine G. O’Dair. NASPA Leadership Exchange Vol 7: 1 Spring 2009: 24-27 <http://www.leadershipexchange-digital.com/leadershipexchange/2009spring?pg=29#pg29>

**Associate Chair & Co-author, Standard 6: Students Committee, NEASC Reaccreditation Self-Study Report of Yale University** 2009. Co-chaired university wide committee, wrote Standard 6 report; met with Visiting Team; drafted 5 year out report section. <http://www.yale.edu/accreditation/self-study.html>

**Council for the Advancement of Standards in Higher Education (CAS), new Standard on Graduate & Professional Student Programs & Services**, created in 2009 CAS edition. Consulted directly with CAS committee to write new standards for publication [www.cas.edu](http://www.cas.edu)

## **STUDENT AFFAIRS PRESENTATIONS & PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY (selected)**

### **Invited Keynote or Plenary Speaker**

- “Why Graduate Student Life & Services Matter Graduate Program Administrators and Coordinators - Regional Conference Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN, 10-2018
- “The Future and Growth of Graduate Student Affairs.” North Carolina Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) annual meeting, Chapel Hill, NC, 10-2018.
- “Mental Health Issues for Graduate Students & Postdoctoral Fellows,” GREAT Group (PhD & Postdoctoral Programs), American Association of Medical Colleges (AAMC), New Orleans, LA, 10-2010.
- “Graduate Student Mental Health Issues” Canadian Association of Graduate Schools (CAGS), annual meeting, Edmonton, Alberta [www.cags.ca](http://www.cags.ca), 10-2008.

### **NASPA – Student Affairs in Higher Education Association Presentations**

2007-2022: Presenter, Panelist, Moderator and/or Session Organizer at NASPA National & Regional Conferences:

- Careers in Graduate Student Affairs
- 20 years of Graduate Student Affairs
- The Future and Growth of Graduate and Professional Student Affairs
- Hot Topics in Graduate Student Services
- Graduate Student Mental Health Issues
- Book Author Roundtable: “A Practitioners Guide to Supporting Graduate and Professional Students” (2022)
- Book Author Roundtable: “Supporting Graduate & Professional Students- A Role for Student Affairs” (2007)
- Online Webinar Co-Presenter, “The Impact of “Wellness” on the Graduate and Professional Student Community,” Joint NASPA – ACPA webinar with 150 participants.

### **Presentations at Student Affairs Various Conferences**

- Supporting Student Parents in Graduate School, Student Parent Support Symposium (SPSS), 2013
- Collaborative Programming: Reaping the Benefits of Shared Program Development, NAFSA, 2012
- Graduate & Professional Student Orientation, NODA, 2011

**External University Program Reviewer for G&P Student Services:** NYU, Boston College, UCLA.

**National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) - Student Affairs in Higher Education, 1997-**

- **NASPA Administrators in Graduate and Professional Student Services (AGAPSS) Knowledge Community, member, 1998-present:**

**National Chair, 2006-07:** Coordinated national activities, information sharing, best practices, preconference workshops and meetings of national network of G&P student services professionals

**Region 1 (New England) AGAPSS Chair, 2000-2006**

- **NASPA Pre-Conference Workshop Co-Organizer and Presenter, “(R)Evolution in Graduate Education: Serving and Involving Graduate and Professional Students.”** With Harvard Dudley House colleague, organized first-ever daylong pre-conference AGAPSS workshop at NASPA Meeting, Boston, March 3, 2002. Over 50 grad student services professionals attended; has become standard pre-conf. model for AGAPSS NASPA community.
- **Region 1 (New England) NASPA Advisory Board, 2000-2006**
- **Panel Organizer, Presenter and Reviewer, NASPA National and Regional Meetings, 1999-2022**
- **Member, NASPA Knowledge Communities: AGAPSS (Graduate students), Adult Learners & Students with Children, Women in Student Affairs (WISA).**

#### **YALE UNIVERSITY SERVICE (selected)**

**Campus Health and Safety Leader for Graduate School of Arts & Sciences, Yale, March 2020-May 2021.** Responsible for all COVID-19 safety policies, compliance, and communications for 3,000+ students and their families.

**Member, Advisory Committee on Student Life (ACSL), 2016-2021.** Active member of university group of SA & SL professionals led by Office of the Vice President for University Life.

**Member, Implementation Committee, Inauguration of Peter Salovey, 23<sup>rd</sup> President of Yale, July-October 2013.** group planning Inauguration events Oct. 2013; ran events & communications for 1,000+ graduate & professional students.

**Administrative delegate, Yale Delegation, Ivy Plus Graduate Summit, 2003-2019; Administrative Chair, 2005 Ivy Graduate Summit hosted at Yale.** Attended annual summit regularly to network with grad life colleagues; worked closely with graduate student leaders to prepare Yale presentations & materials. Updated GSAS Dean and other campus administrators on possible initiatives for Yale from peer institution activities & promising practices.

**Administrative Coordinator, Graduate Affiliate Program with the Residential Colleges 2005-2021.** With graduate student coordinators, revived program to connect graduate students and undergraduates. Managed application & selection processes, budgets, policies, and issues as needed with faculty heads of college and staff.

**Administrative Member, Gryphon’s Pub Supervisory Committee,** meeting quarterly to oversee operations of graduate student run bar and social center on campus, including financial and legal affairs, staff issues, operations, and facilities.

**Yale Delegation Leader, National Conference on Graduate Student Leadership (NCGSL), Washington University, St. Louis, 2003, 2005, 2007:** Student leadership and issue conference co-sponsored with W. Wilson National Fellowship Foundation for Responsive Ph.D. Program.

**Selected Professional Development courses or workshops:** Working with Millennial College Students; Multicultural Service Excellence; Communication for Supervisors; Online Orientation; Social Media for Student Affairs

#### **POLITICAL SCIENCE LEADERSHIP, RESEARCH & PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY**

**American Political Science Association (APSA)**

- **Committee on the Status of Women, 2001-2003:**  
**2001. Report by Committee on the Status of Women in the Profession.** “The Status of Women in Political Science: Female Participation in the Professoriate and the Study of Women and Politics in the Discipline” PS June 2001
- **Foreign Policy (FP) Section, Secretary-Treasurer and Executive Committee, 1999-2006**

**Women’s Caucus for Political Science (WCPS)**

- **Officer, WCPS Northeast Region, 1998-2008:** President; Program Chair; Treasurer; Award Committee
- **WCPS Committee on Assessing Progress in the Discipline 1992-94;** conducted survey on climate for women at US Ph.D. granting Political Science Departments, gave awards for departments making gender equity progress

**International Studies Association (ISA, association of international politics scholars)**

- **ISA Executive Committee and Governing Council Member, 2000-01; ISA Committee on Diversity, 2001-03**
- **ISA-Northeast Region, 1994-2001: President, 1999-2000; Vice-President and Program Chair, 1997-1998; Secretary, 1995-1997**

**Politics research paper presentations and conference participations, 1989-2025 (list upon request);** occasional manuscript reviewer.

**Invited lectures and presentations** for seminars, campus and community groups, various.