



2017 ATIXA/SCOPE JOINT NATIONAL CONFERENCE  
CLOSING KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**Nicole Eramo, Ph.D.**

Nicole Eramo is the Executive Director of Assessment and Planning in the Office of the Vice President and Chief Student Affairs Officer at the University of Virginia. In this role, she leads divisional efforts around assessment and planning, as well as taking the lead on major initiatives to strengthen programs and services for students. From 2006 until 2015, Nicole served as an Assistant and then Associate Dean of Students at the University and as Chair of the University's Sexual Misconduct Board, the then primary adjudication body for University cases of sexual and gender-based violence. While serving as a Dean, Nicole was a member of the on-call team, assisted with crisis management and often served as the primary point for all reports of sexual and gender-based violence. Nicole also worked to build sexual violence prevention and education programming and to hire staff to support those efforts from the Dean of Students Office. Nicole also served as the Interim Deputy Title IX Coordinator for Students at the University as UVA built out their Title IX office and infrastructure, working with colleagues to adapt to a new policy for reports adopted in March of 2015.

In November of 2014, *Rolling Stone* released the story "A Rape on Campus: A Brutal Assault and Struggle for Justice at UVA." The story included a graphic account of the rape of a University of Virginia student only known as "Jackie," recounting therein interactions with her dean, Dean Eramo, and portraying Nicole as indifferent to a horrific gang rape and intent on covering up the matter to protect the reputation of the University. The story soon fell apart under increased journalistic scrutiny and was ultimately called "a story of journalistic failure that could have been avoided" by the Columbia School of Journalism. The magazine officially retracted the story in April 2015. Nicole ultimately sued the magazine for defamation and the author of the piece, the magazine and its parent company, Wenner Media, were found responsible for defamation with "actual malice" in a jury trial lasting over three weeks in the fall of 2016.

Nicole received her B.A. with high distinction from the University of Virginia in Political and Social Thought with a minor in what was, at that time, known as Women's Studies. She subsequently received a masters and doctorate in Education from the Curry School of Education at the University of Virginia in 2003 and 2010 respectively. Nicole wrote her doctoral dissertation on the University of Virginia and the unique structure of student self-governance at the institution. She is a member of the University's oldest honor society, the Raven Society, a winner of the Raven Award, and a winner of the Annette Gibbs Research Award given to one graduate student each year in the Curry School. In the spring of 2014, a University secret society, the Z Society, awarded Nicole the Pale Z Award for her work to support survivors of sexual violence. At Final Exercises in May 2015, Nicole received the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award given to students and University community members "who strive each day to better the lives of those around them, but do so without thought of recognition or reward." Nicole lives in Charlottesville, Virginia, with her husband Kirt von Daacke, their son, Alex, and 4 rowdy canines - Lucy Beagle Johnson, Red, Cab and Millicent (Millie).