

Ali Blandford Diaz **Executive Relationship Manager**

Ali Blandford Diaz is the Executive Relationship Manager for Advancing States (formerly NASUAD). She manages internal and external relationships to/from/for the Executive Director, with a concentration on developing and nurturing external partnerships and sponsorships that support the Association's events. She joined Advancing States in 2015 as the Executive Assistant and expanded into her present role at the beginning of 2019. She works to build a culture of relationships with members and key partner organizations based on trust and value for Advancing States.

Before joining Advancing States, Ms. Blandford Diaz worked for eight years in New York City and Long Island as a public-school teacher, focusing on bilingual education. She was an AmeriCorps Education Award recipient and wrote K-4 social studies curriculum for the New York State Department of Education.

Ms. Blandford Diaz holds a Bachelor of Arts from Sarah Lawrence College and a Master of Science in Teaching from Pace University in New York. She was born in Cincinnati, Ohio and currently lives in Northern Virginia with her wife and dog, Scarjo.