

Candidate for President-Elect

V'Rhaniku Haynes
University of Central Florida

Why are you interested in this Board position?

I am thrilled to be running for president-elect of SoACE. If elected, this will be my second position on the Board. I would be honored to have another opportunity to serve and work with the Board to strengthen and continue to move SoACE forward. I am interested in serving on the Board because I believe that with my skills, knowledge, and experience, I can make a significant contribution to the SoACE organization. SoACE has played a pivotal role in my growth as and development as a higher education professional. As a Board member, I would be able to give back to an organization that has provided me with many opportunities and experiences. I have a genuine passion for SoACE's mission and serving the organization's members and being a part of the organization's growth and success. I believe in a strong board and its ability to educate and engage all its members to support their work within the field. If I am selected for the position, I will be diligent in my responsibility, do my best to make a positive impact in SoACE, and ensure that members feel inspired, connected to our community, and educated on the best way to continue to grow as professionals. I vow to accomplish these goals while providing meaningful, diverse, and inclusive experiences for all members.



What qualifications do you have that would make you a strong fit for this Board position?

I believe my experience is my most substantial qualification. As a former SoACE Board member and my leadership of several SoACE committees, I believe that I have the experience and have built relationships to continue the progress made by the current and previous SoACE Boards. I believe in collaborative and transparent leadership, working to reach decisions that will benefit all stakeholders and the organization. Serving in various leadership capacities within SoACE has allowed me to work collaboratively with diverse groups of people, where I've learned to involve as many voices, ideas, and perspectives as possible to ensure all aspects are considered and represented. My leadership skills are extraordinary, and my promotion to Interim Director of Experiential Learning at the University of Central Florida is a testament to my skill set. In this role, I've provided strategic leadership to a team, guiding them through these critical times as we continue to provide impactful and valuable experiences for students. In addition to my leadership experience, I have provided innovative thinking and created energy for action that continues to move our association forward. This is most evident in my vision and coordination of APEX: The Black Career Professionals Summit and the inaugural Employer Conference Preview event. I am excited about the opportunity to continue serving SoACE in a new capacity.

What leadership roles have you held within SoACE and other similar organizations?

SoACE Experience:

- Member, Employer Engagement Taskforce (March 2020-Present)
- Chair, Conference Employer Preview Event (June 2020-Present)
- Chair, 2020 Conference, Local Arrangements (January 2020-Present)
- Co-Chair, 2019 & 2020 APEX: Black Professionals Summit Planning Committees (March 2019-Present)
- Director, Professional Development (July 2017-June 2019)
- Program Coordinator (In-Person Networking)
- Employer Relations KG (December 2015-December 2016)
- Member, Conference Program Review Committee (June 2016)
- Chair, 2015 & 2016 Employer Relations Summit Planning Committees (January 2014-June 2016)
- Member, 2014 Conference, Exhibits & Sponsorship Committee (June 2014-December 2014)

Other Experience:

- Professional Development Co-Chair, UCF Black Faculty and Staff Association (June 2020-Present)
- Marketing & Outreach Chair, UCF Black Faculty and Staff Association (July 2019-June 2020)

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