

Candidate for Director - Professional Development

Chris Lewandowski

University of South Carolina, Career Center

Why are you interested in this Board position?

The Director of the Professional Development Committee board position is intriguing to me because it represents an opportunity to continue engaging with the SoACE community and help impact the greater Career Services field. My major goal for this committee would be the continued expansion of professional development opportunities beyond the annual SoACE conference. I see this role as an opportunity to continue to move our profession forward and to support the growth and development of all members, both on the employer and university side. If elected, I would look forward to the opportunity to lead a team of committed volunteers to have an impact on our profession, and that would be immensely rewarding. I find the variety of events, event types, and modes of communication exciting. I am drawn to the chance to assist others while furthering my own professional development. I have really enjoyed my previous experiences in Knowledge Group Leadership and would love to pursue this opportunity to continue serving SoACE as a board member.



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

My combination of big picture perspective, detail-orientation, team-centered approach, dedication to SoACE, and desire to create scalable solutions help make me a strongly qualified candidate for the Director of the Professional Development Committee. I have utilized these skills in my day-to-day work at the University of South Carolina and honed them further in leadership roles within both SoACE and our state organization (SCACE). As the chair of the Career Advising and Counseling Knowledge Group, I collaboratively worked with my Assistant Chair and our Professional Development committee to provide ongoing engagement opportunities for our Knowledge Group throughout the year. I believe that my experiences working directly with students, employers, alumni, faculty and staff have sharpened my ability to add value to the SoACE board. This perspective would help me serve as an advisor to the board and consultant for invested members. In addition to my emphasis on relationships, I have also worked to further develop my project management skills and systematic approach to problem solving.

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

For the past two years, I have been involved in the SoACE Career Advising & Counseling Knowledge Group as the Assistant Chair and Chair. In these roles, I have focused on finding opportunities to engage our knowledge group to provide continued professional development beyond the annual SoACE conference. During the past year as the chair of the knowledge group, my assistant chair and I created avenues for additional leadership within our KG and opportunities for ongoing professional development through a webinar and tweet chat series beyond the annual conference. In addition to my service to the SoACE Career Advising and Counseling Knowledge Group, I have served as a Board Member at-large for the South Carolina Association of Colleges and Employers (SCACE) for the past two years. During this time, I have learned more about the responsibilities of a professional organization board through my work with our state association (SCACE) and helped provide perspective and leadership as we have responded to COVID-19 realities. Each of these roles helped develop my skills in team building, vision setting, project management, and volunteer coordination.

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