

Board of Directors – Candidate Statement

Candidate Name: Courtney Edwards

Organization: LSU



Why are you interested in serving on the SoACE Board of Directors?

Through my previous experience on the SoACE Board, I have truly enjoyed seeing how each position contributes to the growth and betterment of our organization. I have great admiration for my fellow board members and the way they prioritize the interests of our members in all they do. I am interested in serving as Director of College Knowledge Groups for a full two-year term to continue the positive momentum we've built in serving our members through KGs. I have a strong desire to enhance opportunities for all SoACE members, regardless of job function. One of the greatest strengths of SoACE is the diversity of professionals within our organization - each with unique roles, yet all united by our shared commitment to preparing and hiring new graduates. KGs help develop those individuals with their unique skills, interests and job functions. As Director, I would focus on providing valuable member benefits through expanded programming, professional training, research initiatives, and meaningful volunteer experiences. I believe these offerings are not only expected but essential to our mission. It would be an honor to serve in this role and help ensure that SoACE continues to exceed the expectations of its members.

What qualifications or experiences make you a strong fit for this board position?

I believe I have the qualifications and experience necessary to succeed as the Director of College Knowledge Groups. Over the past 20 years, I have served in multiple leadership roles within SoACE and LACE (for the state of Louisiana), experiences that have strengthened my ability to lead with purpose, organization, and collaboration. I pride myself on being organized, efficient, and adaptable - able to work both independently and as part of a dynamic team. One of the most important qualities for this position is the ability to work across multiple boundaries and effectively lead a team of volunteers, often remotely. This has been a key component of my previous SoACE leadership roles, including serving as SoACE Conference Chair and as Director of College Knowledge Groups. Leading and serving a team always brings both challenges and rewards, and doing so virtually requires an elevated level of communication, planning, and foresight. Having already had the honor of serving in this role, I am eager to continue the momentum we have built together. My experience leading remote teams, coupled with my organizational strengths and professional maturity, will allow me to continue enhancing SoACE's impact and ensuring

that our members receive the full benefits of a strong, connected professional community.

SoACE Membership & Leadership Involvement

Involvement and/or leadership roles (SoACE and/or similar organizations):

I have been involved with SoACE (formerly SACE) for nearly 20 years in a variety of roles, including conference leadership, speaker, and member of the Board of Directors. I served on the Conference Programs Committee for multiple years before becoming Programs Chair (2011 - 2012). I then served as Conference Co-Chair in 2014 and Conference Chair in 2015 for the Austin, TX conference. Following my time on the conference committee, I served as Director of College Knowledge Groups from 2016 - 2018. From 2019 - 2021, I was Co-Chair and then Chair of SoACE Consulting Services, before returning to the conference committee from 2021 - 2024. Most recently, I have had the honor of serving again as the appointed Director of College Knowledge Groups. My long-standing involvement reflects a deep passion for SoACE and its mission. I believe strongly in what this organization represents and in the professional growth and development it provides to its members. That personal and professional value motivates me to continue giving back in meaningful ways. I truly feel that my journey with SoACE is not yet complete, and the work I still have to contribute lies just ahead. I am eager to continue engaging with our members and advancing our collective goals through the role of Director of College Knowledge Groups, should I be elected.