

Board of Directors – Candidate Statement

Candidate Name: Mason Murphy

Organization: Texas State University



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

Over the past decade or more SoACE has been one of my professional development homes. The annual conference is the organization's most visible access point. For those individuals attending for the first time or checking out SoACE they remember their experience at the conference. Access is essential to that first impression. Access is more than being a welcoming face. Access entails the creation of an environment both at the conference and throughout the year where individuals have the ability and freedom to grow professionally. The reason I am running for this board position is to have the opportunity to create that experience for someone else. That opportunity could come in different forms including addressing digital access issues to content, creating webinars, facilitating dialogue about how current events impact the career services profession, and having a conversation with someone who feels left out.

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

I have been an active member, conference presenter, knowledge group chair, and volunteer within SoACE. I have a clear understanding regarding the access challenges members encounter. I have experienced SoACE conferences and events through the lens of being visually impaired. The access challenges can be small such as navigating a conference app or they can be large such as navigating the layout of a conference space. All access challenges can be solved through education and adjustments. I know I can effectively mitigate the access issues others may experience. Furthermore, I am currently pursuing a Ph. D in Adult Education. I know how to develop programs and resources to move community engagement forward. I have worked in career services for over 20 years, and I have a clear futuristic vision for how to develop the community of professionals in this field.

SoACE Membership & Leadership Involvement

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

I have been the 2020 SoACE Professional Development Scholarship recipient, former Chair, SoACE Career Advising Knowledge Group, and 2015 SoACE Champion of Diversity Award recipient. Also, I have presented and volunteered at multiple conferences.