

Director – Member Services Danny Pape University of Tennessee, Knoxville - Center for Career Development

Why are you interested in this Board position?

I am interested in the Director of Member Services position on the board because I would like to continue to give back to SoACE which has done so much for me personally as a professional. I first connected with SoACE as a graduate student through the conference and have continually been lucky to engage with SoACE throughout my career. I've had the opportunity to learn from others at conferences, connect and meet colleagues across the region, and gained life-long mentors and friendships that I never would have gained without SoACE. I want all members to feel we are providing opportunities for education, engagement, and mentorship that fits each individuals' goals and objectives and that we are truly listening to our membership. This position would play a vital role in this process for our organization and my goal and hope would be that my narrative becomes many others' in the SoACE region. This premise as well as the overall idea on moving SoACE and the profession forward would drive my goals and aspirations if I were lucky enough to receive this amazing opportunity and would be honored to serve for our membership.

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

The qualifications that make me a strong fit for this board position include first and foremost being a strong connector. I've really thrived in developing relationships and more importantly making connections happen across teams, organizations, and communities. I feel that skill would be very useful in this role. Also, the idea of committee work excites me rather than scares me away. I've sat on one of the committees this position would manage and view this work as utilizing the unique and amazing skill sets we have across the membership. Lastly, in my current professional role, I have created a lot of processes and procedures that are long lasting of me in the role which I view as critical to moving any organization forward. Creating efficiencies along the way that move the organization forward should and will be my goal if I were to obtain this role. In conclusion, I believe my ability to make connections across the organization, engagement I have had in committee work, and the knack for creating efficiencies that outlast me make me a great fit for the role.

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

I've been honored enough to serve in a variety of roles in both SoACE and TACE (Tennessee Association of College & Employers). My leadership roles started through TACE when I served as the VP of Colleges where I co-planned the annual conference of around 100 attendees. This work lead me to the opportunity to serve on SoACE's State Association & Consortia Committee for a year with the goal of being a strong bridge between SoACE and our state and consortia organizations. Currently, I am in the second year of serving on the conference planning committee for SoACE overseeing exhibitors and sponsorships.