



Director – Professional Development

Courtney Edwards

LSU Olinde Career Center

Why are you interested in this Board position?

Through my previous experience on the SoACE Board, I have enjoyed watching how each position positively contributes to the betterment of our organization. I have admired my fellow board members in the roles that they do and how they keep the interest of members as a priority. The reason I am interested in the Director- Professional Development position is to continue the momentum that we have moving forward in increasing member benefits. I have a strong desire to enhance the opportunities for ALL SoACE members, regardless of job function. One of the reasons SoACE is so valuable is because of the variety of professionals in our organization, all unified because of a common industry (hiring new grads and new grad preparation/career centers). To be able to offer member benefits in the form of increased programming, training programs, research activities and volunteer experiences is not only an expectation but our duty. I would be honored to be the Director- Professional Development to enhance our membership benefits and to exceed expectations of all members of SoACE.

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

I believe that I have the necessary qualifications to succeed as the Director- Professional Development. In addition to my leadership roles within SoACE (and LACE for the state of Louisiana) for the past 15 years, I am organized, efficient, and can work independently and as a team member. I think one of the most important qualities needed to succeed in this position is the ability to work across multiple boundaries including remotely when leading a team of volunteers. This is something that was critical when serving as the SoACE Conference Chair as well as the SoACE Director- College Knowledge Groups. Serving and leading a team always has its challenges and rewards but doing so virtually magnifies the level of responsibility and complexity. Having the experience of leading remote teams and having the honor of a previous SoACE board position and Conference Chair position, I feel like I am the perfect fit for the Director- Professional Development. These experiences and my skillsets of being organized, having foresight and career maturity will allow me to make the SoACE organization even stronger and more beneficial than it already is.

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

I have been involved with SoACE/SACE for 15 years in various capacities, including conference leadership, conference speaker and Board of Directors. I served on the programs conference committee for multiple years before becoming Programs Chair. I then served as Conference Co-Chair in 2014 and Conference Chair in 2015 for the Austin, TX conference. After serving on the conference committee, I was the Director- College Knowledge Groups for two years - from 2016-2018. I have a passion for SoACE and its future and want to continue to use my time and effort to contribute to the future of our organization. I believe strongly in what SoACE stands for and the development that I get out of this organization makes me want to continue to give back to our membership. I truly feel like my time is not up yet and the work I have left to be done is on the horizon. There is so much more in me that I want to give to SoACE and I truly look forward to engaging with our members in the capacity of the Director-Professional Development, should I be elected.