



Director – Professional Development

Jill Boatright

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Why are you interested in this Board position?

I am interested in the Director of Professional Development position, because I am eager to enhance and expand the professional development opportunities available to all SoACE members both at and beyond the annual conference. Having served in a variety of leadership roles and facilitated many SoACE professional development opportunities, I hope to use what I have learned through these experiences to diversify the opportunities available to our membership across functional areas. 7 years ago, I joined SoACE shortly after completing my master's degree and starting my first job as a career counselor. Since that time, I have greatly benefited from participating in numerous SoACE professional development opportunities. Whether in person or virtually, these opportunities have helped me become a more well-rounded professional, build the skills needed to advance within the field, and develop connections across the region. It is my hope that each of our members receive these same benefits. I want to serve as the Director of Professional Development to enhance our current offerings and respond to the ever-changing landscape of our profession by offering new and innovative opportunities to learn and connect with one another.

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

Throughout my time with SoACE, I have served in a number of leadership roles. These roles have given me a broad understanding of the association as well as the professional development opportunities currently available to members. They have afforded me the chance to connect with members across functional areas to generate new ideas about how professional development could be expanded and/or updated to better serve the membership. The context I have gained serving in these roles is a strong foundation for imagining and implementing new offerings and member benefits. Additionally having served on the professional development committee for several years, I worked closely with previous Directors of Professional Development. This committee work gave me an inside look at the current duties and responsibilities of the position as well as ideas for future direction and prepared me to supervise this important committee.

In 2017 as Chair of the Employer Relations (ER) Summit in Nashville, I reported directly to the Director of Professional Development. As the liaison between the board and the ER Summit Chair and Committee, I know serving in this leadership role has given me the context necessary to help future chairs enhance and continue to improve this important professional development opportunity. Similarly serving on 3 different conference committees, I have learned a lot about what goes into planning and executing the annual conference. These experiences serving on the conference committee have prepared me to work with future conference committees to expand pre-conference professional development opportunities and programs.

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

1. SoACE Employer Relations Knowledge Group, Vice Chair (2018)
2. SoACE Employer Relations Summit (Nashville), Chair (2017)
3. SoACE Conference Committee (Atlanta), Programming Co-Chair (2018)
4. SoACE Employer Relations Knowledge Group, In-Person Networking Chair (2017)
5. SoACE Conference Committee (Austin), Programming Chair (2015)
6. SoACE Conference Committee (New Orleans), Programming Co-Chair (2014)
7. Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities, Career Services Leaders, Vice Chair (2018)
8. SoACE New Member Committee Member (4 years)

9. SoACE Professional Development Committee Member (3 years)
10. SoACE Rising Leaders Planning Committee Member (2 years)