



President Elect

Erica Lake

USC College of Hospitality, Retail and Sport Management

Why are you interested in this Board position?

My involvement with SoACE for the past seven years has been extremely gratifying. I am committed to our association and welcome the opportunity to serve our members as President-Elect. Through a variety of volunteer roles, I have developed strong professional relationships and learned from my colleagues. I have learned how the membership connects and develops throughout the year. As President-Elect, I hope to inspire more members to get involved to strengthen our association. In addition, I hope to expand and deepen our employer relationships. I would also like to partner more closely with NACE to share professional resources with our membership. SoACE is a very strong organization. I look forward to keeping the positive momentum going and expanding upon our rich history of serving our members in authentic and meaningful ways.

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

If selected as President-Elect, I will utilize my professional experience in building relationships with a variety of constituents in the field of career services. Through extensive work with employers and corporate partners, I have facilitated numerous career opportunities for students. In addition, I have collaborated with faculty and students to help students through both the centralized career center model and currently in an academic center. My experience leading a team of seven professional staff members and managing operational budgets of over \$300K has provided me with the knowledge to serve as President-Elect. My professional experience has afforded me the opportunity to develop and implement both strategic employer relations plans and a strategic plan for a new center for corporate engagement. These professional experiences through both my volunteer roles in SoACE and my work at the University of South Carolina have prepared me to lead the Southern Association of Colleges and Employers. I am confident that my knowledge of the association, our members and my professional experience will help me to effectively serve in this important role.

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

For several years, I had the pleasure of serving in leadership with the Employer Relations Knowledge Group. Currently, I serve as the Director for Targeted Knowledge Groups on the Board of Directors. Through this role, I have collaborated with Knowledge Group (KG) leaders to facilitate professional development for our members throughout the year. Our Knowledge Groups create a community within SoACE, in which members make meaningful professional connections. I support KG leaders during their challenges and celebrate their successes. In addition, I recruit and support effective leadership teams within our Knowledge Groups to maintain the leadership pipeline. In 2016, I was fortunate to serve on the conference committee as the assistant chair for exhibitors and sponsorships. This was a wonderful opportunity to see the "behind the scenes" operations of the SoACE Conference. The leadership experiences that I have held in SoACE have been enriching both personally and professionally.