

Board of Directors – Candidate Statement

Candidate Name: Raylea Rideau

Organization: Rice University



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

I am excited about the role of Director of College Knowledge Groups (KGs) because I am passionate about fostering collaboration, professional growth, and inclusion within our field. Throughout my career, I have worked to create spaces where people feel connected, supported, and inspired to share ideas that drive student success. In my past role as Chair of the Career Advising and Counseling KG, I saw the strong value that KGs bring to the SoACE experience by fostering community and advancing shared missions. I formed many great relationships with colleagues, which provided an opportunity to think bigger in terms of career services. Overall, this position represents an opportunity to give back to an organization that has significantly shaped my own professional development over the past nine years. I'm eager to bring my energy, positivity, and commitment to the SoACE Board and to the continued success of our Knowledge Groups.

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

I bring nine years of experience in career development and advising and leadership to this role. I am very comfortable leading and have done so in various capacities, including as the previous Chair of the Career Advising and Counseling program at KG and as the former President of the Houston Area Consortium of Career Centers (HACCC). I also served as a committee member for the NACE Principles for Ethical Professional Practice, where we updated NACE ethics policies for members. I enjoy collaborating and ideating with others and would love the opportunity to support the KGs as they provide more resources for SoACE members. I have presented at five different regional and national conferences on topics including: "Building partnerships to take competency assessment to the next level" and "career advising as a tool for student success and educational equity". Lastly, I was recognized by my institution with the Dean of Undergraduate Staff Recognition Award for my contributions to Rice University and the collaborative relationships I fostered with faculty, staff, students, and various campus departments.

SoACE Membership & Leadership Involvement

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

I have been a member of SoACE since 2016, when I began my career counseling journey at Louisiana State University (Geaux Tigers!) Professional Association Leadership Experience:

- Chair - Career Advising and Counseling KG, Southern Association of Colleges and Employers
- President (previous roles President-Elect / Secretary / Social Media Chair), Houston Area Consortium of Career Centers
- Principles for Ethical Professional Practice Committee Member, National Association of Colleges and Employers
- Professional Development Committee Member, National Society for Experiential Education