

Candidate for Director - Professional Development

Kelly Atwood

Mississippi State University

Why are you interested in this Board position?

I have benefitted from SoACE's professional development opportunities, formally and informally. Beginning with the first conference I attended in 2011, I participated in the Emerging Leaders program which consisted of attending and tracking specified leadership sessions over a two-year period. Completing this program enhanced my leadership abilities as a new career services professional. Meanwhile, I sought every avenue for professional development through programming, volunteering, and networking. My leadership roles in the Technology KG afforded me experience that I have now parlayed into my role at Mississippi State University's Career Center. Serving as the Director for Professional Development, I would be able to give back to this organization that has helped me grow tremendously as a career services professional and to help shape professional development for the organization's future.



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

The most valuable asset I will bring to this position is my attention to detail. This is important because the Director for Professional Development oversees various and simultaneous tasks, including scholarships, fellowships, volunteers (from gauging interest to onboarding to tracking and recognition), and new leadership development. I am impeccably detail oriented and thorough as demonstrated in my work at Mississippi State University and in SoACE which is a must to keep all aspects of this position on track throughout the year. Additionally, my commitment to innovative thinking is an asset to find new ways that can be leveraged to develop our new and experienced members.

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

I have served SoACE in leadership roles both for the annual conference and in a Knowledge Group.

- Conference Committee, Sponsors and Exhibitors Assistant Chair, 2015
- Conference Committee, Sponsors and Exhibitors Chair, 2016
- Technology KG, Boot Camp Coordinator, 2018
- Technology KG, Assistant Chair, 2019
- Technology KG, Chair, 2020
- I served on the board of the Mississippi Association of Colleges and Employers (MACE) for two years (2017-2019) as Marketing and Technology Director.

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