

Candidate for Director – Member Services

Matthew Battista

The University of Tampa

Why are you interested in this Board position?

The more I invest in SoACE, the more I gain from its dynamic and supportive community. SoACE has become a professional family, profoundly enriching my personal and professional development over the years. I want to ensure that as many members as possible experience this same sense of belonging and growth. My interest in the Director of Member Services role stems from my passion for creating value and my natural strengths in fostering engagement and collaboration. With a strong recruiting background, I am deeply committed to expanding membership while ensuring an exceptional experience for current members. I believe this role provides the opportunity to develop meaningful initiatives that will enhance our members' engagement and satisfaction. During my second term as Director for Targeted Knowledge Groups, I've observed the need for a structured and impactful onboarding process. Members increasingly seek mentorship, guidance, and a community that supports their goals. I aim to contribute by improving processes and building resources that amplify SoACE's value for its members. This role also offers the chance to leave a lasting legacy by driving impactful initiatives that strengthen SoACE's brand and member experience. My commitment to continuous improvement, paired with my leadership experience, equips me to make meaningful contributions to the important work carried out by Member Services and its committees. I am confident that I can help grow SoACE's reach while fostering a welcoming and supportive environment for all members.



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

I am currently serving my second term as Director for Targeted Knowledge Groups, where I've spearheaded projects to recruit and retain volunteers, ensuring that all KG leadership roles are filled. I've also supported the development of onboarding processes and SOPs to elevate the volunteer experience and ensure long-term sustainability for future leaders. These experiences have provided me with a strong understanding of member needs and the importance of structured processes in creating a positive and impactful experience. Prior to joining Career Services in 2014, I worked in Enrollment Management as an admissions counselor. These early experiences allowed me to develop skills in recruitment, relationship building, and retention. I've carried this passion for recruitment into my current role at UTampa, where I serve as Manager of Employer Development. In this capacity, I educate, attract, and retain corporate partners, employing strategies that can directly apply to SoACE's goals for membership growth and retention. What sets me apart is my unwavering dedication to SoACE's mission. I approach each leadership role with a growth mindset and a servant leadership style, prioritizing collaboration, innovation, and measurable outcomes. My passion for the association, coupled with my experience in strategic planning and relationship management, positions me to contribute meaningfully to the work of Member Services. I am committed to leveraging my expertise to advance SoACE's goals and ensure a positive experience for all members.

2025/27 SoACE Board Election

Candidate Statements

[Please vote by Friday, January 24](#)



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

Within SoACE: Board of Directors (Targeted Knowledge Groups): Now in my second term, I've driven key initiatives such as member surveys to gather insights on rebranding one of our KGs (Career Center Leaders). I've successfully recruited and filled all KG chair and assistant chair roles, ensuring strong leadership for each group. Additionally, I've focused on creating onboarding SOPs that enhance the volunteer experience and build a framework for future success. Summit Chair (2022): I chaired the 2022 Employer Relations Summit in Fort Worth, TX, after years of involvement in employer recruitment, panels, and site visits. I worked closely with committee members to ensure a seamless and impactful event, showcasing best practices in employer engagement. Conference Planning Committee (2020-2022): I played a key role in virtual conference planning and helped reintroduce pre-conference programs like 5@5 and Director Think Tank. I also secured employer site visits post-conference, adding value to attendees' experience. Conference Connector Program: As a connector, I mentored new members, facilitated meaningful connections, and ensured attendees felt welcomed and supported. Outside SoACE: At UTampa, I serve as Chair of the Professional Development Committee, Executive Coach for the College of Business, and Mentor for the President's Leadership Fellows. I am also an active member of the Tampa Bay Economic Development Council's Business Development and Retention Committee. These roles have strengthened my leadership, mentorship, and strategic planning skills, which I bring to all my work with SoACE.