

President-Elect

Charlie Wilder

Mississippi State University

[Resume](#)



Why are you interested in this board position?

When I entered this field eight years ago, I was encouraged by my director to become a SoACE member. A few years later, I was given an opportunity to become more involved with the organization through working on the conference committee. I decided to make an investment of time and effort into my responsibilities on the conference committee. Instead of putting off any SoACE tasks, I would often complete these tasks first along with my other work for the day. I continued with this approach through my tenure on the conference committee and later as a board member for External Relations and Communications. Over time, I began to find that I was receiving solid returns on my investments. These returns came in the form of lasting relationships with peers across the region, public recognition for a job well done, and opportunities to develop leadership skills and collaborate with others beyond my office. Identifying these returns as career enrichment would be drastically understating the weight I perceive them to carry. I have received more from SoACE than I could hope to return. Through my experience with SoACE, I have developed a deep appreciation for the association. While I am not sure that it is possible, I have had a magical experience without going to Disney World. Why am I interested in this board position? I want to see SoACE continue to be able to provide the same kind of opportunities to the next wave of professionals, and I want to be involved in making sure the association continues to thrive. We have all experienced times when we have felt connected to something bigger than ourselves, something that feels a lot like family. I am proud to be a part of the SoACE family, and I am excited about the chance to contribute to this family once more.

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

I am qualified to serve as the next SoACE president-elect as a result of the knowledge and experience gained through serving in various roles within SoACE. If elected, I would enter this position already aware of the association's operations and current needs. Also, through my work with the association, I have learned about serving on teams of volunteers, leading these teams, and investing in team members to help them grow as professionals. In my experience with the conference committee, I learned about the challenging task of ensuring a range of quality breakout sessions each year; I imagine this task has only become more challenging as SoACE continues to grow its membership and considering the rapidly changing technologies that influence our jobs. Our program volunteers allow all of us stay informed with the latest trends. I also developed a respect for my colleagues who served on sponsorship for the conference; the funds they raise give the conference committee the ability to provide an unforgettable experience year after year. Lately, SoACE has become more than just a conference; SoACE volunteers have been doing an excellent job of providing more opportunities to connect throughout the year through webinars, tweet chats, blogs, social media, and the Employer Relations Summit. Because our conference is the one time when most all of us are together, each member of the conference committee plays an essential role in moving our association forward. In my role on the SoACE Board of Directors, I gained a deep understanding of our processes for marketing, social media, communications, external reviews, and state association relations. I also developed a broad understanding of how the larger association operates. With three years' worth of board meetings, complete with reports from each director, I feel that I am aware of our associations' strengths and weaknesses. Recently, I have been chairing the Technology Task Force, a team of subject-matter experts (they may deny this claim) assembled to research and recommend a technology solution for the expanding communication and file-storage needs of the association, particularly as they relate to the work of our committees and knowledge groups. For the last several months, our focus has been exploring products that will facilitate seamless communication within and across committees. Through my experience with SoACE, I have learned about the importance of strong teams. My accomplishments within the organization are not only my own; they also belong to a dedicated group of individuals who are passionate about their work. Much of the work of our association is accomplished by volunteers serving on committees, knowledge group leadership teams, and the Board. We invest in our membership when we reward these

volunteers with opportunities for leadership and advancement in the organization. The skills gained in these leadership positions carry value that can ultimately grow career success. Our people are the heart of our organization; we achieve success when we invest in each other, in our volunteers, and in our membership. Looking into the future, I am excited about the opportunity to contribute to the continued growth of the organization and its members.

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

- *SoACE Technology Task Force Chair July 2017 - December 2017*
- *SoACE Board of Directors Director of External Relations and Communications March 2014 - June 2017*
- *SoACE Experiential Education Knowledge Group Conference Planning Liaison January 2012 - January 2014*
- *SoACE Conference Planning Committee Local Arrangements - 2012 Programs - 2011*