

Director – Diversity & Inclusion

Cheryl Hicks

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[Resume](#)

Why are you interested in this board position?

Everyone deserves the opportunity to be better at their profession. Everyone deserves to have their "voices" heard. My interest in this position stems from the desire to be a strong advocate of inclusion. The Southern Association of Colleges and Employers strives to be better at diversifying the organization and recognizing those who contribute to this effort. SoACE is the first organization where I felt an instant sense of community and an environment not only interested in growing a diverse membership, but encourages growth within its members. If chosen for this Board position, I would work within the privilege of leadership to encourage, support, and execute initiatives of member institutions and employers that are reflections of ourselves. Simultaneously, the effort to increase membership and extend benefits of SoACE to all institutions continues to be a priority that I understand will cultivate a stronger organization.

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

I represent diversity. I know the impact of inclusive initiatives. As an assistant director in the Office of Personal and Career Development at my institution of employment, I serve as the liaison between our department and the Office of Diversity and Inclusion ensuring all students are prepared for post graduate opportunities. I work closely with the Chief Diversity Officer and staff of the Intercultural Center, LGBTQ Center, and Women's Center in collaborative situations that generate programs, employer and alumni events, and connections between students and administrators. I lead the planning and execution of the annual Black Professional Forum, a networking panel event that connects undergraduate students with alumni mentors. I have been invited to serve on several committees that promote diversity and inclusion efforts including the Diversity and Inclusion Campus Partners comprised of faculty, staff, and administrators across various campus departments. As well, I served on the grant writing proposal committee for United Negro College Fund awarding funding to HBCU's and PHI's exploring the opportunity to improve their career service departments.

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

As a member of SoACE for the last four years, I have served on the Diversity & Inclusion committee (2 years). I have been a member of NCACE for four years and served on the NCACE conference committee (2 years). By the end of 2017, I would have presented at two industry conferences on the topic of engaging college black males for career readiness â€“ NCCDA (Elon, NC) and SoACE (San Antonio, TX).