

2017 ASSE Leadership Conference

Newly appointed to assist the New Jersey Chapter *Government Affairs Committee*, I was afforded the opportunity to attend the 2017 ASSE Leadership Conference, held in Rosemont IL. Accompanied by *Joe Leuzzi, New Jersey Chapter treasurer*, the leadership conference delivered opportunities for networking, interacting with keynote speakers, and informative workshop sessions. Also in attendance from New Jersey Chapter was *Alex Ruiz, representing CoPS*.

The Conference opened with a welcome reception that allowed ASSE volunteers to get to know each other. The reception involved “ice breaker” activities and attendees quickly engaged with each other. The spirit of “community” carried throughout the conference during focus groups, workshops, and the region night out. Volunteers learned about opportunities to fully engage within their chapters and acquired techniques for solving challenges.

In particular the Government Affairs workshop discussed step by step processes for engaging locally. The workshop was administered by *Jeremy Bethancourt Arizona Chapter, GA Chair*. Attendees were presented with concepts such as:

- Understanding the importance of building relationships with policy makers
- How to be comfortable with understanding the Legislative and Administrative process
- Creating and adding real value to the policy process
- How to develop Government Affairs Strategic Plan using SMART goals

In addition Keynote speaker David Marquet, expert on leadership and organizational design and author of, “Turn the Ship Around”, provided exceptional insight on how to turn passive followers into active leaders. Captain Marquet is a great speaker and the material presented was inspirational and informative. I am thankful for the opportunity to interact with my peers and for vast amount of information received at the 2017 Leader Conference and look forward to next year.

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