

My 2017 ASSE Leadership Conference Experience

As the newly appointed *New Jersey Chapter Treasurer*, I was given the opportunity to attend the 2017 ASSE Leadership Conference and represent our New Jersey Chapter. Also in attendance from our Chapter were Corey Jones, *Government Affairs Committee*, and Alex Ruiz who represented *CoPS*.

The leadership conference provided an outstanding opportunity to further develop my skills and leadership potential with our Chapter as well as my career in general. There were many ways to network and interact with other Chapter representatives and leaders from all eight US Chapters as well as Global Chapters.

The conference opened with a welcome reception that allowed ASSE leaders to network during the planned "ice breaker" event. Attendees were active participants and throughout the entire conference and were involved in various types of sessions to develop their skills and leadership potentials.

There were a number of development sessions to choose from during the event. I attended the "Charting Your ASSE Leadership Path" which was presented by Rixio Medina, ASSE President Elect. The development session provided insight on the paths taken by current ASSE leaders including the current ASSE President, Jim Smith. The session also included a great discussion on the broader mission of ASSE and the programs and communities in place to fulfill that mission.

Another excellent leadership program development session I attended was, "Leading Through Influence", which was presented by Jose Perez, ASSE Past Administrator-SPALW. The session provided many examples and various tools that can be used to be more effective when leading a group, team or your Chapter.

The keynote speaker, David Marquet, best-selling author, expert on leadership and organizational design and former submarine commander, gave an excellent presentation on the techniques that can be used to ultimately create leaders at all levels of an organization. His book, "Turn the Ship Around" is based on his true story of turning followers into leaders.

I am grateful to have had the opportunity to attend the leadership conference and represent our Chapter while also having the opportunity to interact with so many of my peers.

Joe Leuzzi