



District Leader

Biographical Information

Candidate's Name: Sachchidanand Deo

Candidate's Office: Division Director District Number: 101

Toastmasters member since: 1st August 2018

Education:

MS in Electrical Engineering, Columbia University in the city of New York
BE in Electronics and Telecommunication, K.J.Somaiya College of Engineering, University of Mumbai
Harvard Business School, CORE certification program

Toastmasters offices held and terms of service:

Area Director, Area G4, June 2023 - June 2024
VPPR, I'm feeling Chatty Toastmasters club, Jan 2024 onwards
VPE, Qspeak, 2020 - 2023
VPPR, Qspeak, 2018 - 2020

Toastmasters honors and recognition:

1st place, Division level Tall-tales contest, Spring 2023
1st place, Area level Tall-tales contest, Spring 2023
3rd place, Division level Table-topics contest
1st place, Area level Table-topics contest

Relevant work experience and how it relates to Toastmasters and your role as a District leader:

During my time at Columbia University, I was in charge of 4 organizations and was awarded graduate student life award for making campus life better for the community. In these roles, I had an opportunity to lead from front at multiple occasions while inspiring my other board members to help the community in achieving its goals. I was also president of an ERG(Employee Resource Group) during my time at Qualcomm and currently serving as area director of area G4. Through all of these different roles, I developed my leadership and communication skills, which are vital for being district leader. I want to help the toastmaster district grow further and I believe that helping them grow will help me grow as a leader as well.

What experience do you have in strategic planning?

Through my past roles, I worked with other ERGs and university leaders to understand the needs of the community and planned, organized and developed initiatives to empower the community. Being president of multiple organizations, I set up the vision for the organization alongside developing a pathway to get there. For example: during my time as in charge of New Grad ERG Qualcomm, vision was to make the transition smoother from student life to professional life for which I organized corresponding events, created mentoring programs and conducted tech leader interviews, to help achieve the community goal.

What experience do you have in the area of finance?

In past, I was in charge of finance for an ERG at Qualcomm. As a part of my role, I defined the annual budget of the organization, distributed it to various events after discussing with the respective stakeholders. I was also responsible for updating expense reports to make sure that the organization is in stable financial condition and found sponsors to cater the financial needs. I was responsible for reimbursements and worked with Diversity and Inclusion department for the same.

What experience do you have in developing procedures?

During my time at Undergrad school, I served as a founding member for a one of the organizations. Consequently, I was responsible for not only finding new board members, but also inculcated the culture and practices required for the organization to function and foster. I developed various channels through which community can gain new members and also kept conversational channels open to understand their needs and adjusted community practices accordingly. This created a feedback loop required to improve the procedures and practices based on community needs.

What lessons did you learn from previous leadership positions?

Two lessons I learned from previous leadership are: a. Leading from the front: The leader is a vital part of the organization and is the most important component in providing the direction to the organization. Consequently, a leader leading toastmaster should be a good speaker himself/herself, capable of inspiring other board members. b. Communication skills: Its important for a leader to keep his communication channels open and should be approachable. That way, community can see him/her as one of their own and can develop trust.

Why do you want to serve as a District leader?

One of the reasons I became area director, was to make the community better and help in improving public speaking skills of members under my area. By becoming district leader, I can increase the impact of my work. For example: If I become division director, I can touch upon the lives of more toastmaster members as compared to when I am area director now. I believe that way I can help even more members become better public speakers, creating even more leaders in the future. Also, being district leader will help me understand the larger picture of community, so that I can help it grow further in different ways.

In your opinion, what are the District mission's major objectives and how would you work to achieve them?

a. District's main objective should be providing tools and resources for its members and club officers to grow. I believe I can help organize events and developing tools (such as pathway/speech workshops, club visiting other clubs to learn from them, tech conferences etc). District can also increase collaboration with other districts and collaboration between areas, which could lead to exchange of ideas. b. District's secondary objective should be building a community where a toastmaster member can get the feeling of belongingness. To achieve this, we can have more social events (celebrations, treks, game nights). Something as small as sending a birthday wish to a member can go a long way.

Additional information about yourself: