

Mitchel Merida

OΔK Candidate Statement

Hello to all readers of this Personal Statement. If you have not yet met me, get ready for a pretty good story. I'm a recent graduate of LIU Post in Long Island, New York in May 2023, at the tender age of 41. This is the college where I was gracefully invited and initiated into our wonderful society. I also managed to complete my associate degree in 2021 after a highly successful career in the quick service restaurant industry. I didn't need any of these degrees and my primary purpose WAS to put official paper on the wall and take away any discussion of avoiding college out of my children's heads. But along the way, my perspective has changed.

In my non-traditional journey, I have learned many things and have met many wonderful people. I believe the vast majority of my professors would speak on my impact on not only their style/method of teaching but also on my peers' learning experiences. I've lived the American Dream as a First Generation American, born of Guatemalan parents. I want to share my work ethic and can do attitude with as many people as possible.

I know I can lead by example like few others and I know my way around a team, whether as the leader or simply a member. In my professional organization, I manage human resources for nearly 100 management personnel and nearly 700 crew members across ten work locations. In my spare time, I lead a team of youth athletes ages Kindergarten through eighth grade in track and field. That number of kids is about 120 in the Fall and another 140 in the Spring. I almost forgot to mention that this little non-profit track team was founded by me in 2017, is self-funded and awards \$2,000 in annual scholarships to alumni.

Two high school age children, three dogs, a house and a wife of soon to be seventeen years keep my plenty busy but I still find the time to get even more accomplished. Currently I attend Touro Law School as I prepare for yet another chapter of life. My peers are wonderful and I really appreciate the way we all interact with one another. They really appreciate my perspective and experience and I appreciate their approach to law school queries.

How will I impact Omicron Delta Kappa and what would I do different? It all starts with marketing; who are we, where are we, how are we communicating? Get together, fundraisers and on campus appearances would be a start. Do the chapters ever meet up at something like a ball game, concert, or general convention? Are there any celebrities within our ranks that could be part of a service announcement? I've seen some fairly influential and successful people on the Board of Directors, perhaps we engage them more (if that isn't already happening). I am not at the level yet to donate at that tier but I hope to get there in the future.

I conclude with the following, if my application is found lacking in any way, or if my writing sample here is not strong enough- I challenge the panel to consider this: have/would any of the other candidates be able to answer questions from a panel of judges or media? Have any of them managed a revenue stream over \$40M annually? I am sure there are many worthy adversaries applying for this same position but I am fairly certain that an in person interview would reveal just how much I can bring to the party and strengthen our overall Circle!