

1. Why did you join the program? Tell us your story!

I joined Teachers College because of our program's unique blend of social-organizational psychology. My professional goal is to create organizational cultures that are supportive, enriching and fulfilling. In order to do so, it's imperative to understand the social psychology behind every organization. As part of my current work in the consulting segment of Aon Hewitt, I am realizing how advantageous our degree is when properly leveraged.

2. What are your strongest motivators in running for OHDCO president?

As a first year, it took me several months to gain my bearings and find my place in our program. Attending OHDCO events was a major contributing factor that allowed me to feel part of a community. In candidly discussing with OHDCO's current president that I hadn't found my space in the program, I was encouraged to be unique and create my own path. I want to provide the same support to all current and future students. As president, my goal is for first-year students, current members and alumni to use OHDCO as a venue to grow both personally and professionally. I want to help create a community where students feel that they are welcomed, free to be themselves, and have the resources to accomplish their goals.

3. What do you hope to accomplish (i.e. vision, action plan) in the next year as president?

My vision is to foster professional development through personal development. We are not a traditional program, and I am not a typical student. In order to be successful in realizing the true benefits of our program, it is imperative that we differentiate ourselves by embracing our uniqueness. This can all be done while maintaining and building upon OHDCO's current relationships with the greater business community. However, I believe that students need to build personal relationships before they start building professional relationships. I plan to facilitate events that bring together fun and networking, foster interaction with alumni, tighten our bonds with the Columbia Business School, and create opportunities for self discovery by introducing mindfulness to the student experience.

4. Thinking back to your last leadership experience how would your peers describe you as a leader?

Anyone who has worked with me knows that laughter and productivity can, and should, coexist; as my leadership style is centered around being collaborative and directive while having fun. Although I joke around a lot, I am relentless at accomplishing goals and I pride myself in being accountable. I believe that we need to think collectively as a cohort and celebrate each others successes because our relationships are our most valuable assets. If we want to reap the true benefits of our program, we must build bonds that will outlast the duration of our education.

