

Q1.

## 2026 Executive Board - Candidate Application Form

The ACUHO-I Executive Board is a dynamic and forward-thinking group of individuals committed to using their diverse perspectives to expand the work of the Association. Guided by [the strategic plan](#) and the [ACUHO-I Constitution and bylaws](#), the Executive Board is charged with providing the strategic direction for the Association. This work ensures that ACUHO-I's efforts are aligned with our shared vision and mission to support campus housing and residence life professionals as they work towards student success. Thank you for your interest.

In order to slate the most qualified and representative candidates, the ACUHO-I Nominations Committee uses a number of categories/criteria in its review and slating process. You can find more information on these criteria at <https://www.acuho-i.org/who-we-are/executive-board/elections/>.

**Please use this form to submit your application for a 2026 Executive Board position.**

**The Candidate Application closes at 12pm ET (US) on May 15, 2025.**

Q2. Applicant First Name:

Derek

Q3. Applicant Last Name:

Jackson

Q4. Position Desired:

- ☒ Vice President (3 Year Presidential Cycle, 2026-2028)
- ☐ Globalization Director (3 Year Term, 2026-2028)
- ☐ Inclusion & Equity Director (2 Year Term, 2026-2027)
- ☐ Regional Affiliations Director (2 Year Term, 2026-2027)
- ☐ Residence Education Director (2 Year Team, 2026-2027)

Q5. Current College/University:

Kansas State University

Q6. Current Job Title:

Associate Vice President for Community Building

Q7. Email Address:

Q8. Cell Phone Number:

Q10. Administrative Assistant's Name:

Q11. Administrative Assistant's Email Address:

Q12. Upload a Professional Headshot:

**Note:** This image is collected should you be slated for a position. The selection committee does not have access to this file during the process.



[Jackson Derek - 97.jpg](#)

2.5MB

image/jpeg

Q13. Upload a Current Resume:

**Note:** The Nominations Committee will use your resume to evaluate your ability to fulfill the duties of the position for which you are applying. Please review the duties and qualifications for your position of interest in the 2026 board nomination packet and address them within your resume. The 2026 nomination packet can be found here: <https://www.acuho-i.org/who-we-are/executive-board/elections/>

Q14. Upload a Short Bio (Approximately 250 Words). This bio will be shared publicly if you are slated.

[Derek Jackson bio 2025.docx](#)

14KB

application/vnd.openxmlformats-officedocument.wordprocessingml.document

Q20. Short Answer Prompts:

**Note:** These short answer prompts allow the membership to evaluate your qualifications for your desired position on the 2026 Executive Board. Your responses will be shared publicly if you are slated. Please respond pertinently, limit your answers to 200 words, and use the relevant EB position description when formulating your answers: <https://www.acuho-i.org/who-we-are/executive-board/elections/>

Q15. **Qualifications:** Please discuss the job positions, professional development activities, and other qualifications that prepare you for the board position for which you are applying.

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With over 35 years in campus housing, I bring deep operational expertise and strategic leadership experience that aligns with the role of ACUHO-I President. Currently serving as Associate Vice President for Community Building at Kansas State University, I lead a comprehensive portfolio that includes Housing and Dining Services, Fraternity and Sorority Life, and the Student Union. I began my career in residence life and progressed through key leadership roles, giving me a full-spectrum understanding of our field. My ACUHO-I involvement includes serving on the Executive Board, chairing the Future of the Profession Task Force, and representing the association internationally. I've also been a faculty member for the South African Roelf Visser Student Housing Training Institute and the James C. Grimm National Housing Training Institute. I've contributed to the development of inclusive residential communities, led complex capital projects, and championed staff development initiatives. My leadership is grounded in strategic planning, equity, and collaborative partnerships—core competencies for the presidency. I am committed to advancing ACUHO-I's strategic priorities, strengthening our global influence, and ensuring we remain a resource and advocate for campus housing professionals worldwide. I am honored to offer my experience and vision in service to our profession.

Q16. **Thought Leadership and Technical Credibility:** Please describe what you would bring to the board in the realm of this competency (as defined below).

Understands and keeps up to date on local, national, and international policies and trends that affect housing and residence life. Is aware of the organization's impact on the external environment and has pride in the campus housing profession. Is considered a thought-leader with a commitment to continuous learning about ACUHO-I organization. This includes a foundational understanding of the organizational structure, culture, and core programs/services to support the mission of ACUHO-I. Possesses an area of expertise that helps the Association meet one or more of its strategic initiatives. Understands and appropriately applies principles, related to specialized expertise in campus housing and other areas of importance.

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As a dedicated housing professional, I actively monitor and analyze local, national, and international policies and trends that impact campus housing and residence life. This includes staying informed on evolving student demographics, sustainability practices, and global housing challenges. My commitment to continuous learning is demonstrated through active participation in ACUHO-I programs such as the James C. Grimm National Housing Training Institute and as faculty for the Senior Housing Officer Institute. These experiences have deepened my understanding of ACUHO-I's organizational structure, culture, and core programs, aligning with the Executive Board's expectations for strategic leadership. My expertise in facilities and physical environments supports ACUHO-I's strategic initiatives, particularly in enhancing student experiences through innovative housing solutions. I have led capital projects that prioritize student well-being and sustainability, reflecting the Association's mission. Furthermore, my involvement in regional associations and contributions to ACUHO-I publications demonstrate my role as a thought leader committed to advancing the campus housing profession. Through these efforts, I aim to contribute meaningfully to ACUHO-I's strategic direction, ensuring our practices remain responsive to the dynamic landscape of higher education housing.

**Q17. Openness to a Multitude of Perspectives:** Please describe what you would bring to the board in the realm of this competency (as defined below).

Fosters an environment where individual differences are valued and leveraged to achieve the vision and mission of the organization. Treats others with courtesy, sensitivity, and respect. Listens effectively; clarifies information as needed and is open to change and new information; rapidly adapts to new information, changing conditions, or unexpected obstacles. Prioritizes the best interests of the board, organization, and members over individual priorities, such as pet projects and personal advancement. Encourages and supports a positive culture between volunteer leaders, staff, and members. Willingness to solve problems as a group.

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I bring a deep commitment to creating space for multiple perspectives by consistently asking thoughtful, inclusive questions that help uncover assumptions, expand understanding, and guide decision-making. Throughout my career, I've worked to foster environments where people feel heard, respected, and valued—whether in leading campus-wide initiatives or collaborating across departments. I believe asking the right questions often opens doors to innovation and collective problem-solving more than having all the answers. As a board member, I would prioritize listening carefully and seeking clarification to ensure decisions reflect a wide range of member voices and lived experiences. I have experience navigating complex issues with humility, adaptability, and a focus on shared goals. I strive to help others feel comfortable challenging the status quo while maintaining mutual respect and forward momentum. I am committed to the mission and vision of ACUHO-I and understand the importance of collaboration between volunteer leaders, staff, and members. I set aside personal agendas to focus on outcomes that benefit the association broadly. My approach encourages trust, reflection, and growth—essential qualities for a board that must lead through change while remaining grounded in the values of the profession.

**Q18. Strategic Thinking:** Please describe what you would bring to the board in the realm of this competency (as defined below).

Board members should be able to provide both strategic and innovative thought leadership. Strategic thinking involves analyzing issues and making decisions that support the organization's overarching mission. Board members with the capacity for innovative thinking make new ideas and solutions possible. Articulate current conditions and anticipate future trends that impact campus housing programs. Ability to influence strategic direction and collaborate with ACUHO-I to create programs and services that meet the need of campus housing professionals. Ability to embrace an adaptable and flexible mindset.

Please respond pertinently, limit your answers to 200 words, and use the relevant EB position description when formulating your answer: <https://www.acuho-i.org/who-we-are/executive-board/elections/>

I bring a strategic mindset grounded in years of operational leadership and future-focused planning within campus housing. My work has centered on aligning departmental goals with institutional priorities, anticipating demographic shifts, and responding to the evolving needs of students. I approach complex issues by asking, "What will best serve our students and profession in the long term?"—balancing innovation with fiscal and operational realities. As a thought leader, I've guided major facility planning efforts, enrollment-driven occupancy strategies, and equity-focused student engagement initiatives. I believe that strategic thinking requires both curiosity and discipline: the curiosity to explore bold ideas and the discipline to ensure they are actionable and sustainable. I value collaboration and will contribute to the Board by connecting emerging trends to ACUHO-I's strategic plan, helping craft initiatives that are timely, inclusive, and impactful. I have a track record of influencing direction through listening, framing the right questions, and helping others see the big picture. I also bring an adaptable mindset—understanding that innovation often requires iteration and openness to course correction. Through this lens, I will help ACUHO-I remain forward-thinking, responsive, and deeply connected to the needs of its global membership.

**Q19. Developing Others:** Please describe what you would bring to the board in the realm of this competency (as defined below).

Develops the ability of others to perform and contribute to the organization by providing ongoing feedback and opportunities to learn through formal and informal methods.

Please respond pertinently, limit your answers to 200 words, and use the relevant EB position description when formulating your answer: <https://www.acuho-i.org/who-we-are/executive-board/elections/>

Developing others has been a cornerstone of my professional journey, both on my campus and across the broader higher education and housing community. I have benefited greatly from mentors within ACUHO-I who guided me early in my career, and I view it as a responsibility and privilege to extend that same support to others. I've mentored professionals across institutions through ACUHO-I institutes, regional associations, and international partnerships, offering guidance on leadership development, career advancement, and navigating complex challenges in housing. I also believe in the power of informal mentorship—listening, asking reflective questions, and encouraging emerging leaders to find their own voice. Whether through one-on-one connections or facilitating learning experiences, I strive to create space for others to grow in confidence, skills, and purpose. As a board member, I would champion leadership development efforts and encourage greater access to mentoring networks that reach professionals at all levels. I believe ACUHO-I has a unique role in building the profession's future, and I am committed to supporting pathways for others to contribute meaningfully—just as I was supported along the way.