

Shigeo Iwamiya

University of Southern California

Executive Director, Residential Education

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

My professional journey has given me the opportunity to lead at multiple levels, from campus operations to association governance, and those experiences have shaped how I would serve as Vice President. In my current role as Executive Director of Residential Education at the University of Southern California, I oversee a large residential education program supporting more than 9,000 students, manage complex budgets, and help guide divisional priorities in partnership with campus and external stakeholders. That work has strengthened my ability to navigate complexity, build strong partnerships, and make decisions that connect day-to-day operations with broader strategic vision. My involvement in ACUHO-I and MACUHO has also prepared me well for this role. Serving on the ACUHO-I Executive Board and the ACUHO-I Research and Educational Foundation Board gave me valuable insight into association governance, board relationships, and the importance of advancing the mission through strong partnerships and thoughtful stewardship. My time as President of MACUHO deepened my understanding of how to support members, move strategic work forward, and lead collaboratively. These experiences have given me a strong foundation to serve the association well as Vice President.

Thought Leadership and Technical Credibility: Please describe what you would bring to the board in the realm of this competency.

I believe thought leadership is something earned through contribution and trust, not something a person can simply claim. For me, this competency is less about being seen as an expert and more about staying engaged, informed, and willing to help move the profession forward. Across more than twenty years in campus housing and residential education, and through leadership at eight institutions across five regions of the country, I have developed a broad perspective on how student needs, institutional priorities, and external pressures continue to shape our work. My connection to the profession has remained consistent through long-standing involvement with ACUHO-I and MACUHO, where I have served in governance roles, partnered with foundation initiatives, and continued contributing to professional learning through conference engagement and dialogue. That continued involvement has kept me closely connected to the evolving needs of the profession and ACUHO-I's role in shaping its future. My work has increasingly centered on assessment and using data to strengthen decision-making within residential education. I would bring that perspective to the board, along with a willingness to ask difficult questions, offer honest feedback, and help the association evolve in ways that best serve the profession.

Openness to a Multitude of Perspectives: Please describe what you would bring to the board in the realm of this competency.

My openness to a multitude of perspectives is shaped by both my lived experience and my professional journey. As a Japanese American and LGBTQ+ leader, I understand personally what it means to navigate spaces where representation is limited and where different perspectives are not always equally visible or understood. That experience has shaped how I lead. It has made me more intentional about listening, more aware of voices that may not naturally rise to the surface, and more committed to creating environments where people feel respected enough to contribute honestly. Professionally, working across eight institutions in five regions of the country has reinforced that there is no single way to approach our work. Different institutional cultures and student communities require adaptability, curiosity, and humility. I have been on the ACUHO-I ballot several times and have never been elected, but my decision to continue showing up is intentional. At this stage in my career, it is about visibility and representation. I want other Japanese American professionals, LGBTQ+ professionals, and emerging leaders to see that leadership can reflect their experiences and identities, and that persistence in service to this profession matters. That understanding shapes how I lead and would shape how I serve on the board.

Strategic Thinking: Please describe what you would bring to the board in the realm of this competency.

Strategic thinking has become a central part of how I lead, but I have also learned that strategy cannot live within one person. Early in my career, I believed strategic leadership was about having the right answers or seeing the path forward before others did. Over time, I have learned that the strongest strategy is built collectively. It requires creating a culture where people at every level are encouraged to think critically about their work and understand how their decisions connect to a larger purpose. In my current role at the University of Southern California, much of my work has focused on building that kind of culture through assessment and intentional reflection. My goal has been to help shift decision-making in Residential Education so it is grounded in evidence and shared understanding, allowing our teams to adapt as student needs and institutional priorities continue to evolve. Having worked across eight institutions in five regions of the country, I have seen how quickly our profession changes and how important it is to remain adaptable. I would bring to the ACUHO-I board the belief that the best strategy is developed together and strengthened over time, so the association can continue growing alongside the professionals it serves

Developing Others: Please describe what you would bring to the board in the realm of this competency.

Developing others has been one of the most meaningful parts of my professional journey because I believe leadership carries a responsibility to make the path more accessible for those coming behind us. Throughout my career, I have tried to invest in emerging professionals in ways that go beyond supervision by helping reduce barriers to opportunity. One example has been sponsoring ACUHO-I internship application costs for younger professionals who may not have pursued the

experience otherwise, knowing that access can shape confidence and influence career direction. That commitment has also carried into my professional involvement, particularly through serving as faculty for regional institutes and leadership development programs. In those spaces, I have spent time mentoring entry-level and mid-level professionals, offering perspective from my own journey while helping them navigate their own. Even this candidacy reflects that same commitment. By continuing to put my name forward, I hope to expand visibility in leadership and help reinforce that there is room in this profession for a wider range of identities, experiences, and pathways to lead.