Jennifer Petrie

Candidate Manifesto for International Chair

I am interested in the position of International Committee Chair for the University of Pittsburgh Postdoctoral Association. As a second year postdoctoral fellow at the David Berg Center for Ethics and Leadership at the College of Business Administration, I am interested in connecting more with the post-doc community at Pitt and facilitating informative events and social programming for the UPPDA. I feel my background in international educational programming, organizational involvement, and community outreach allows me to effectively perform the duties and responsibilities of this executive board position.

My first choice for the UPPDA executive board position is the International Chair because I have experience providing support and programming for international students. At Ohio University, I was the graduate assistant for the Walter International Education Center creating bi-weekly meet and greets and semester events bringing international and domestic students together in an interactive social and educational setting. I enjoyed facilitating cultural exchange and providing academic guidance for international students. Additionally, I worked collaboratively with international students as Fundraising Chair for Ohio University’s African Student Union and President of Ohio University UNICEF’s Chapter during graduate school. Through my work at the Berg Center, I have also worked on projects with Pitt Business International, global service learning projects, and the African Studies Program. Additionally, my doctorate specializes in international education, so I have experience understanding the educational and cultural differences international students experience in American higher education institutions. My international research experience in Ghana, Russia, Hong Kong, Japan, and Europe has developed my experience working with international students. I hope to enable supportive and relevant programming to the needs of Pitt’s international post-doc community.

If I was elected International Committee Chair, I would like to continue to provide support specific to the needs of international post-docs here at Pitt, such as navigating Visa requirements, pursuing international research funding, and providing cultural exchange opportunities. I also think it would be great to have some events that bring domestic and international students together. I would make sure to listen to the needs of international post-docs and organize events and activities to support their interests. I am an efficient, energetic, and responsible post-doc, and I would enjoy spending time facilitating positive experiences for international post-docs here at Pitt.