



Meet The 2018-19 Alumni Council!

In addition to the Alumni Ambassador Program, we have formed the Alumni Council, which brings together a group of dedicated alumni with the purpose of helping Destination Imagination (DI) headquarters. The Alumni Council works with our staff by providing the unique alumni perspective and offering feedback on a number of different projects and initiatives, supporting DI in the creation of new partnerships and collaborations, and strengthening and growing DI around the world.

MISSION

To serve as a liaison between the global alumni network and Destination Imagination, Inc. by recruiting new alumni membership, engaging alumni worldwide and increasing volunteer involvement in Destination Imagination.

VISION

To connect, inspire and empower alumni of the Destination Imagination program.

Dawn DiCicco has been involved with Destination Imagination for more than 15 years. She spent nine years as a DI participant in Massachusetts. After becoming an alumna of the program, she began serving in a variety of volunteer positions, including Team Manager, School Coordinator, Appraiser, and Challenge Master in Massachusetts and New York. She is currently the Co-Chair of New York DI's Board of Trustees. Dawn received a B.A. in Studio Television Production from Emerson College and uses the skills she learned through DI as a member of the directing team for ABC's, "The View."



DAWN DICICCO / COUNCIL CHAIR

Angela Wright has been a part of the DI family for the past 15 years. She spent six years as a DI participant in Michigan. As an alumna of the program, Angela has kept busy as an Appraiser, Challenge Master, Board Member, Social Media and Communications contributor, and part-time fairy princess for both Michigan and Tennessee DI. Angela currently works in advertising and media for Nissan North America in Nashville, Tennessee. Angela is a former member of the Michigan State University Marching Band and is a huge fan of college football. She has a puppy named Garth Brooks, a cat named Chloe, and is planning a wedding in the next year!



ANGELA WRIGHT / COUNCIL VICE CHAIR

Chandler Sebek was a DI participant for 12 years in Texas where he always competed in the Scientific Challenge with his team, "The Knuckleheads." After becoming an alumnus of the program, he started to volunteer with Destination Imagination. From Head Appraiser to Regional Challenge Master to Alumni Council member, he has volunteered in a variety of roles and is always searching for new ways to give back to the organization that gave him so much. Currently, Chandler is a graduate student studying finance at Texas A&M University and will earn his Masters in May 2019.



CHANDLER SEBEK / COUNCIL SECRETARY

Ryan Benczik grew up in Plymouth, Indiana and currently lives in Indianapolis, IN as a DI alumnus. He participated as a team member in DI from second grade through university. After his time as a team member, he began serving in a variety of volunteer DI roles, including as an Appraiser, Challenge Master and Challenge Developer. Ryan professionally serves in a role as an advocate for his clients' long-term planning objectives and goals through financial planning. In his free time, Ryan frequently visits his local cross-training gym and loves hiking, camping and cooking.



RYAN BENCZIK / COUNCIL TREASURER

Jenna Caputo is an alumna from Londonderry, New Hampshire. She began participating in DI when she was in the third grade and continued through her senior year of high school. As a college student, she began volunteering as a Team Manager and later became a Regional Challenge Master. In her "real life," Jenna works as an Area Coordinator for Residential Life at her alma mater, Mount Holyoke College. She says the lessons she learned in DI impact her life every day, and despite the physical distance between her and her team members, they remain her family.



JENNA CAPUTO / COUNCIL MEMBER

Manuel Escamilla is an alumnus from the Mexico Affiliate and has been an active participant for the past 10 years. During his time as a participant, Manuel competed at Global Finals twice. He currently serves as the Improvisational Challenge Master for Mexico and as an Alumni Relations Coordinators.



MANUEL ESCAMILLA / COUNCIL MEMBER

Kaitlin Keddy was a DI participant for 10 years. After graduating from the program, she began volunteering with Massachusetts DI as an Affiliate Challenge Master and recently served as an International Challenge Master for the Improvisational Challenge. She also served as the Alumni Council Chair for the 2017-18 season. She is a protective social worker for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Kaitlin is thrilled to be a part of the Alumni Council and looks forward to ensuring that the program continues to flourish so her daughter may be a DI kid someday!



KAITLIN KEDDY / COUNCIL MEMBER

Jamie Kubiak is an alumnus from the New York Affiliate. Jamie attributes much of his personal growth to his time as a DI participant, which helped him to break free of his “shy, introverted shell.” He now works as a teacher and uses his DI skills to collaborate with colleagues toward creative solutions for problems facing their students. Jamie is looking forward to working with the Alumni Council to help continually create a positive experience for alumni.



JAMIE KUBIAK / COUNCIL MEMBER

Meghan Kolf participated in DI for eight years. She began volunteering with DI in a variety of roles, including Team Manager, Appraiser, Regional Director, an Affiliate Board Member. Meghan graduated with a Doctorate of Pharmacy from the University of Wyoming School of Pharmacy in 2016 and currently practices as a clinical pharmacy specialist in pediatric intensive care at Texas Children’s Hospital. Meghan’s favorite part of her DI story continues to be the people she is able to work with and seeing the incredible impact the program has on the next generation of creators.



MEGHAN KOLF / COUNCIL MEMBER

Jordan Levesque is an alumnus from New Hampshire and has been active in DI for 15 years. He began as a member of a tight-knit team that competed together at all levels, later serving as an Appraiser, and more currently as a Regional Challenge Master. Outside of DI, Jordan works as a cloud architect for a financial services company, building the future of omnichannel customer experiences. His professional work has been an influence on his personal pursuits, including programming, gaming, sci-fi movie binging, as well as serving other nonprofits in technology and operation roles.



JORDAN LEVESQUE / COUNCIL MEMBER

Kate Nylander began participating in DI in the first grade, wanting nothing more than to join the cool club her older brother was in. She was a participant for 12 years. After becoming an alumna, she began volunteering in a variety of roles, including Team Manager, Affiliate Board Member, Appraiser and Regional Challenge Master. Outside of DI, she works in HR strategy for a management consulting firm and volunteers with the online emotional support site, 7 Cups of Tea. Kate credits much of her success to lessons learned through Destination Imagination.



KATE NYLANDER / COUNCIL MEMBER

Kasey Rowland participated in DI for seven years in Arkansas. After graduating from high school, he began volunteering with Destination Imagination. He currently serves with the U.S. Armed Forces and also works as a fine arts entrepreneur. He attended the University of Arkansas Pine Bluff and Southeast Arkansas College. DI has been a strong passion in his life and now that his life is “outside the box,” he never plans to go back inside!



KASEY ROWLAND / COUNCIL MEMBER

Erika Solis is an alumna from the New Jersey Affiliate. Though Erika did not start DI until her junior year of high school, the program made such an impact on her that she began volunteering as an Appraiser and will serve as a Challenge Master this year. Erika is an advertising major at Rowan University, where she currently runs her student-run advertising agency.



ERIKA SOLIS / COUNCIL MEMBER

Michael Russell is an alumnus from the Georgia Affiliate, originally from New Hampshire. He’s been involved with DI for more than 23 years, beginning as a participant for 10 years. His involvement continued with New Hampshire as he became an Appraiser, Regional Challenge Master, photographer, Board Member, and Committee Chair. He began volunteering at Global Finals, producing videos for Facebook and YouTube, as well as taking photos for social media channels as part of the Web Team. Now, as a resident of Georgia, he gives back locally to both the Georgia and Florida Affiliates as an Appraiser and photographer. He’s looking forward to being part of the Alumni Council to help alumni that have location barriers reconnect with their Affiliates.



MICHAEL RUSSELL / COUNCIL MEMBER

Austin Uebelhor hails from Southern Indiana, where he spent four years as a Destination Imagination participant. Austin currently works at the Regenrief Institute in the Indiana University Center for Aging Research in Indianapolis. In his free time, he likes to pursue his favorite pastimes of theater, reading and music. Austin believes that DI gives its participants something unique that is often left out of the traditional school environment—lessons in creativity and problem solving that will benefit students for years to come.



AUSTIN UEBELHOR / COUNCIL MEMBER

LEARN MORE

Are you a Destination Imagination alum and are looking for ways to give back to DI locally, nationally and internationally? Join our Alumni Ambassador Program! The Alumni Ambassador Program (AAP) was created to help DI in its mission to inspire the next generation of innovative thinkers, creators and leaders. To join the AAP, apply online at DestinationImagination.org/alumni.