

2017-18 Alumni Council Candidates

Jordan Levesque

Destination Imagination has been an integral part of my life since I was in middle school. It's magical experiences have made it both my pleasure and honor to compete in school, and then later serve as an RCM for New Hampshire. This deep-rooted passion is the reason why respectfully submit my application to continue to serve as a member of the Alumni Council.

Over the past five years, I have had the opportunity to not only serve DI, but other nonprofit organizations as well. These experiences range from event coordination for the technology club at my university, to helping found and act as the director of operations and technology of an arts and culture expo, which hosted over a thousand attendees each year. I'm also pleased to regularly consult with other arts expos in regards to budgeting, volunteer operations, communications, and digital infrastructure.

If given the opportunity, I'd be looking forward to working with the board to in order to better engage our alumni network, specifically by enhancing communications through technology. It is my personal goal to modernize the ways in which we unite both existing and new alumni by utilizing a variety of cost-effective, scalable, and simple communication solutions. This will serve to bolster our dedicated volunteer base, and also to actively listen, collect, and then act on the unique perspectives that you, our esteemed alumni, can provide. Let me amplify your voice, and continue to give back to an organization that has meant the world to me.



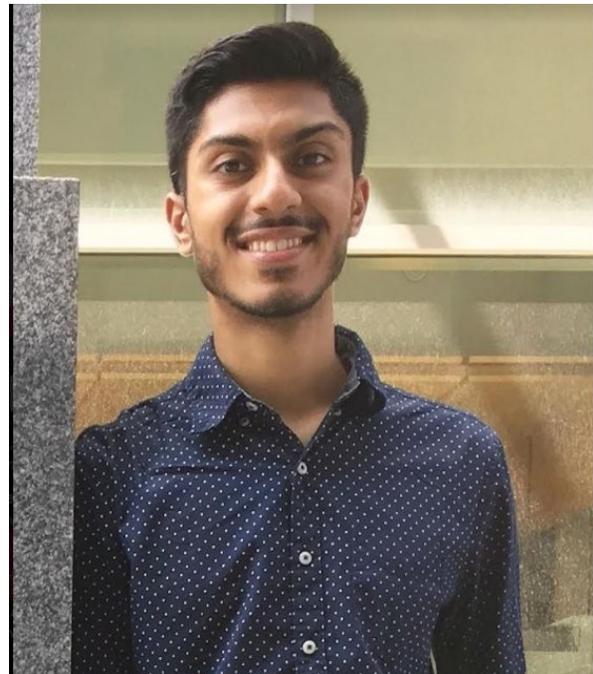
Kasey Rowland

For 15 years, Destination Imagination has lead me on a journey of unimaginable discovery. From tear jerking moments all the way to infinity and beyond, nothing would give a greater joy at this time than to be apart and serve on the Destination Imagination Alumni Ambassador Council. I am a great candidate to be a part of the Alumni Council not because of my time in the organization or the milestones that I have made but because I bring something new to the table everyday. Everyday I perpetuate and help others to perpetuate new opportunities in themselves and the world around them. I am the token guy that you come across every blue moon. I am the DI-er with the southern accent from Arkansas with the outrageous personality of bursting excitement. Being a Destination Imagination Alumni member is not what makes me qualified or the best candidate for the position. What I embody as a team player, a generator of new things and a mind that is an open playground is what makes me best. I would say choose me because I want it so bad, or because I am a minority but that is not what I want to portray nor is that what Destination Imagination represents. I want to help build new avenues of approach here. I have been a competitor, mentor and a volunteer in the course of my time. I want to be apart of something bigger to do something bigger.



Sunny Choudhary

My name is Sunny Choudhary and I am an alumnus from the state of Maryland. I have been involved with DI for 13 years and am currently a first-year dental student at the University of Maryland School of Dentistry. Being president of my class, I utilize the skills gained through my involvement with DI on a daily basis. From collaborating with 130 of my classmates to working hand in hand with administrative faculty, not a day goes by where I don't appreciate the values instilled in me from my many years in DI. That's exactly why I feel as though it is an opportune time to be a part of the Alumni Council. As members of the alumni community spanning vastly



different regions of the world, we've all had different stories with DI and all have different experiences to share.

I feel as though the Mid-Atlantic region, including Maryland, is underrepresented in the number of registered Alumni Ambassadors and I'd love to be a part in changing that for the better. Although I am a first-year dental student and finding time to do things that I am passionate about can be difficult, I always find a way to give back to DI. Whether it be appraising at Global Finals, being a Challenge Writer, or even helping to design pins for my Affiliate, DI is an integral part of my life and I hope to inspire other alumni to treat DI in a similar manner.

Noam Eshed

My name is Noam, and DI has been a part of my life for the past 14 years! This year marks my final year as a team member, since I will be graduating in May from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, where I am studying Electrical and Computer and Systems Engineering. I have been a DI volunteer in both my home state of NH and my school state of NY as an Appraiser (usually in the Instant Challenge) for the past four years, and this year I finally got to volunteer at Global Finals 2017! During my first year at RPI, my friends and I started a DI club on campus. We've sent volunteers and teams to the NYDI Affiliate Tournament and one first-place winning team to compete at Global Finals in 2016. Now that my journey at RPI is coming to a close, I'm excited to have the opportunity to join the Alumni Council and continue my involvement in a different way! I've had many years of experience as a DI team member, Team Manager, coordinator, tournament volunteer and Appraiser, and have even written a few articles for the Destination Imagination blog. I would love to expand my involvement in DI by joining the Alumni Council, and hope that my experiences in and out of the program will help me make a positive difference!



Ryan Benczik

If you asked one of my friends I think they might describe me as energetic, fast paced and caring about the community. Support and inspiration from the DI community specifically guided me in my journey from active participant to engaged alumnus. Here are a few ways in which I will contribute to your alumni experience if elected for a council position:

- A voice within the council which will collaborate and listen to others at the local, state and global level
- A layer of transparency regarding possible alumni roles which exist beyond appraising at the local, state and global level.
- A person who will constantly find new ways to bridge the gap between relevant opportunities and alumni.

This council should be the voice of you. Let's realize a vision together to propel our program forward as unified alumni. Individually we are all unique, but together we are complete.



Erika Solis

My name is Erika Solis. I'm a college student, a designer, and most importantly, an active alumnus in the Destination Imagination community. Today, I ask for your support in electing me as one of the new Alumni Ambassador Council members. I was part of my high school's DI team for two years. I continue to support my former high school's team by participating in their fundraisers and mentoring teams. I even encouraged my younger sister to join, and take part as her team's appraiser in regionals. As an advertising major at Rowan University, I bring the DI ideals to my work. I continue to find ways to be creative through clubs and assignments. I finish my assignments, and go back to see how I can stand out more. I



may not be part of a DI team anymore, but I'm part of many teams that also need to imagine outside the box. Whether it's the commuter's club, the school newspaper, or even as a student teacher in the classroom, I'm there and ready to provide a creative solution.

I treat life like an instant challenge: I see what I can use, and try to use it all to create something amazing. Some challenges are harder than others, but I know if I stay positive and trust the people around me, anything can happen.

Lindsey Koski

Hi fellow DI-ers!

Like all of you, I have a love for DI and want to this organization continue to thrive. My team and I competed in DI for 8 years. The main challenge that we took on was Project Outreach, we also liked to test ourselves in eXtreme. This year will be my 4th year as an appraiser! I am currently working as a pediatric Speech Therapist and I am looking forward to going to grad school soon!

I am seeking your support for allowing me to serve as a member of the DI Alumni Council. I want to make it easier for Alumni to stay involved and be connected to one another and the organization, because DI doesn't stop for us after competition.

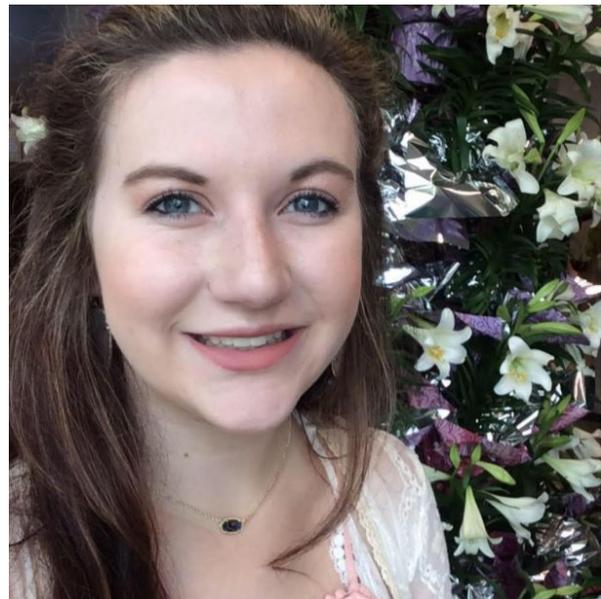
I want to bring a sense of unity and propose to us as alumni and to promote our importance in DI. We are a group that every single competitor should be able to look up to so that we can show them how DI has affected our lives and how we are still a part of this great organization.

Some of the things that I would like to bring to the table if I am selected include facilitating an alumni mentoring program. I would also like to create an Alumni Instant Challenge competition that can be done before the start of Global Finals and Affiliate Tournaments.

Thank you, I appreciate your support for helping me make these ideas a part of the DI Alumni experience.

Thinking creatively,

Lindsey



Rebecca Wirick

My name is Rebecca Wirick. I am 20 years old and am a junior at Boise State University. My major is GIMM which stands for Gaming, Interactive Media and Mobile. GIMM is a new program at Boise State that covers a broad range of technological applications including programming, animation, virtual and augmented reality applications, game design, and software development. I grew up in Texas and participated in Destination Imagination for nine years.

DI gave me an outlet to be creative and innovative and I credit it with the reason I am pursuing a career in STEM. I want to serve on the Alumni Council because I want to give back to the program in a meaningful way and help preserve and expand it so that more students have the opportunity that I did. I had a wonderful experience with DI and I want to provide that experience for other kids, especially students who struggle in the conformity environment of a classroom. I believe that getting other alumni, who feel similarly, connected and involved with Destination Imagination will help preserve the longevity of the organization and grow it even more. The best advocates for this organization are the people who were a part of it and can speak to the impact it made on their life. DI gave me confidence in my creative abilities, great problem skills, confidence as a leader, perseverance in the face of difficulty and friendships that will last a lifetime and I want the opportunity to give back.



Ian Yue

Having participated in DI for 10 years, I not only learned how to creatively problem-solve, I also learned the importance of integrating that skill into my everyday life. In fact, creative problem-solving pervades so much of my life today, it affects everything from my job in multi-stakeholder environmental planning to figuring out how to most effectively rake the leaves off my lawn before the sun sets(!). Yet, as thankful as I am for having such a skill in my life, am all the more eager to “pay it forward” to the next generation. I am running for the DI Alumni Council because I want to engage fellow alumni by celebrating what DI has built into all of us and then leverage that shared spirit to encourage alumni to foster lifelong creative problem-solving skills in DI-ers today. Moreover, I want to develop



ways for alumni to give back to DI at a variety of capacity and commitment levels; we shouldn't waste the talents and enthusiasm of fellow alumni just because they may not be able to contribute at a specific level.

In an increasingly specialized society, it takes those who were taught to love (rather than stifle) interdisciplinarity and divergent thinking to pass that passion along to others. I want to connect with our alumni to figure out how to best do this, and I would be most grateful if you offered me the chance to do so.