

NCTTA Human Resources Coordinator Statement of Intent

My name is Stephanie Shih and I am an alumna of Barnard College, Columbia University, '12. I write to submit my statement of intent to run for the position of Human Resources Coordinator on the NCTTA Board of Directors. I want to get involved not only because NCTTA was an integral part of my college life, but also because I have experienced firsthand how important sport can be to a person's wellbeing. I am confident that my current role as the lead of my company's HR department and my history of involvement with the NCTTA position me well to not only carry out the duties of a board member, but also relate to student leaders striving to bring their teams success. I believe that giving back to the institutions that support students and supporting motivated students themselves are important elements of being an alum. Serving on the Board would be a great opportunity to accomplish both.

As a student, I was an active participant as a student athlete, both as a member of Columbia University's coed team and as a singles player (2008-2012), and as a representative within the organization. As a representative for Columbia, our coed and women's teams and individual singles players qualified for the National Championships every year from 2008 – 2012, and I had the great privilege of representing the USA in the 2011 Summer University Games in Shenzhen, China. From the administrative side, I served as an Athlete Representative (2011-2012), NYC's interim Division Director (2012), and NJ's Division Director (2012-2013). Throughout my years as a student, it was a great privilege to watch NCTTA grow from a handful of people playing in a rec room to becoming a highly organized and structured affair, hosting hundreds of students from multiple states in Divisional and Regional tournaments. In addition, the crown jewel of NCTTA, the National Championships, has come to be a professionally produced event, sharing elite American student athletes of Olympian caliber with the world via livestreams. Even with its high degree of professionalism, there is also an element of scrappiness about the organization, accomplishing a lot with limited resources and funding—this makes what NCTTA does all the more impressive. NCTTA gave me so much as a student, so it would seem a no-brainer to put myself in the running to give my time and energy back to the organization.

Finally, as an HR professional, a large portion of my job is recruiting and communication, as well as onboarding new hires. Having had feet in both worlds of being a student athlete and of putting together strong and competent teams, I feel confident that I can recruit, mentor, and retain top talent from the pool of NCTTA's students and alumni. It is in this role I believe I could make the most impact to both the organization as well as students by empowering them to grow and develop as leaders and young adults.

Competitive sport has always been an important part of my life, and every struggle, success, win, and loss was an important learning/teaching moment. The discipline and perspective required to be successful (and remain sane) have never been as clear as now: during a pandemic that forces many of us to be mostly indoors, which means we have to depend mostly on ourselves to give structure to the day, and during (another) economic catastrophe where the future, candidly, looks incredibly uncertain at best and bleak at worst for the current crop of students. My time as a participant in NCTTA taught me much about being a dependable teammate and influential leader, and about processing the whole gamut of emotions/stressors inherent in sport. Those years helped shaped me to become a compassionate and competent adult, and I feel motivated to not only give back to the organization, but also to ensure that the next generations of students can continue to share my experience.