

Nadia Gilkes PQD Candidate Bio

Candidate Office – District 115 Program Quality Director

Education – B.A. in Criminology from University of South Florida; J.D. from Texas Wesleyan University

Employer – Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada, Inc.

Toastmasters District Offices Held:

2017 – 2018: District 33 Area C3 Director

2017 – 2018: District 33 Pathways Guide

2018 – 2019: District 33 Logistics Manager

2019 – 2020: District 115 Public Relations Manager

2021 – 2022: International Director Candidate Co-Campaign Manager

2022 – 2023: District 115 Logistics Manager

Toastmasters Honors and Recognition – District Level:

2017 – 2018: District 33 Area C3 – Distinguished Area

2018 - Distinguished Toastmaster (Traditional)

2018 – 2019: District 33 Toastmaster of the Year

2019 – 2020: District 115 Sparkplug of the Year

2020 – 2021: Area B2 Sparkplug of the Year

2020 – 2021: Area D4 Sparkplug of the Year

2021 - Distinguished Toastmaster (Pathways)

I first walked into a Toastmasters meeting in May of 2010. I was so inspired and excited that I joined on the spot. The next week, the club was having officer elections and I was quickly introduced to the word “voluntold.” The club members agreed that I would be perfect for the VPM role, (and, no one else was running for the position), so I jumped right in. That began my leadership journey in Toastmasters.

I initially joined Toastmasters because I wanted to polish my speeches so I could better educate the community on Alzheimer’s. Through the years I was able to grow and stretch myself, not only as a speaker but as a leader. I have crossed paths with amazing people around the globe, thanks to this organization I’ve dedicated myself to. I’ve also had many opportunities to pour into others and watch members achieve their own goals and dreams.

I feel the Program Quality Director position is a wonderful opportunity for me to grow my current skill set, while allowing me to continue to pour into others. I have a passion for training and educating. I've presented at countless TLI events in five districts. I also served as the District 1 Virtual Events Co-Producer, helping to find talent and put together events that were educational and inspiring.

Outside of Toastmasters, I planned and launched two book festivals to showcase self-published authors. I also routinely plan workshops and train groups on vision boarding and self-publishing. In the near future, I will aid in training fellow attorneys on new case management software, drawing on similar skills I honed while training fellow members on Pathways.

As District 115 Program Quality Director, I will aim to bring engaging trainings and resources to both our district leaders and club members. My vision is to expand our already impactful TLI trainings with additional presentations that cater to members' lives and interests in and outside of Toastmasters. I hope to expand the speaking platform and offer more members the opportunity to speak, train, and present topics they are passionate about. I am excited about the year ahead and would be honored to serve as a trio member of District 115.