

PROGRAMS DIRECTOR

Programs Director – Clinton Brown III



My intention to run for LPA Programs Director is rooted in my desire to serve little people. I will maintain and create new programs that will build skill sets needed for lifelong opportunities. I believe LPA is in a great position to provide programs that help members access employment opportunities, educational advancement, and social and financial independence.

I've been a member of the LPA scholarship committee for several years now and have seen the positive impact on those who receive them. Reading the submissions year after year, gives me such renewed hope for the future for little people here in the United States. There are so many driven and powerful members of our youth that want to pursue secondary education, master's programs, and doctorates. It is incredible what we can achieve.

Last year, I created the idea and framework for the Grant for Overall Access Living (GOAL) Fund, which LPA ratified and embraced with open arms. This fund sits within the responsibility of the Programs Director and will specifically be a place where our community can access funds that will get them on the road to independence. This fund can cover adaptations and construction in one's home, driving equipment, scooters, wheelchairs, devices for dressing, toileting, you name it. It's costly to be us! But we also all have the right to independence.

In 2009, my organization, the NY Towers athletic club, competed in DAAA. The Towers engaged LP's who lived in the NY tri-state area not only served as a team that played sports during conference, but as an ongoing athletic outlet as we held practices throughout the year for our members of all ages. I also created the Beyond The Rim program which brought the NY Towers to schools to teach their students about Dwarfism Awareness. This program reached thousands of students who became allies of the dwarfism community. Our message was simple – little people can be athletes too, there's truly an athlete in all of us. I am most proud of the fact that this program helped many little people who attended those schools in their acceptance journey amongst their peers.

I served on the board of directors during Gary Arnold's administration as one of his Finance Directors and have recently been serving as the District 2 Treasurer. In 2009, I also served on the conference chair committee for LPA Brooklyn and was personally able to secure over \$100k in corporate donations. I plan on tapping these sources and others if I am elected Programs Director.

Lastly, in my work life, one particular experience that serves me well in this role was my creation of an internal affinity group at the company I work for that is dedicated to employees with disabilities. I started it three years ago, and still lead the group today. We help shape policies

and procedures and create programs that help make our workplace more accessible for employees with disability and make our company's products and services more accessible for customers with disabilities. I've worked with cross-functional teams and have been able to convince C-suite executives the value of a company that designs, implements, and prioritizes with its disability community in mind.

My life has been a prime example of why independence, access to education, and adaptive technology can be the difference between leading a successful and fulfilling life or being in neutral at home unable to make a living and be an active member of society. When I was 16, if I didn't have access to adaptive drivers ed, I never would have been able to get back and forth to college 2 years later when I was a freshman at Hofstra University. If I hadn't been able to purchase a scooter, I would not have been able to get around campus, navigate stores, and daily living. If I hadn't had the family support to pay for \$30k of equipment in my Ford Windstar in 1998, I would have had to rely on friends, family, and inaccessible public transportation to get around. I am grateful for the opportunities I was afforded and now I want to help others unlock those opportunity for themselves.

Thank you for taking the time to learn about what I will bring to the organization if I'm elected as Programs Director.

Programs Director – Danielle Frank



Our organization deserves empowering leaders who are passionate and dedicated to service. As we push forward together toward a more inclusive, accessible future, I am grateful for the opportunity to share why I believe I am the most qualified candidate to serve as Programs Director.

From my previous experience in this position and multiple leadership roles within our organization, I recognize the difference that our programs can make in the lives of members - whether they allow a child to find their forever family, an individual to attend their first conference and find community, or a member to fulfill the life-long dream of pursuing a college education.

As Programs Director, I will continue to ensure that our programs are inclusive, meaningful, and make a positive impact on the lives of current and future members. I will also have a strong focus on breaking down barriers that prevent any members of our organization from full participation.

An effective Programs Director should ensure that members feel supported and that their unmet needs are addressed. I've dedicated almost 10 years of service to LPA to pay it forward to an organization that has positively impacted my life so that others can experience the same benefits and strong community support.

From 2017-2019, I had the honor of serving a full term as LPA's Programs Director. I oversaw grant and scholarship programs which awarded over \$100,000. I helped to revise the college scholarship application to promote a more diverse applicant pool. I chaired various committees, ensuring that both LP and average height members had the opportunity to serve, and I worked

with stakeholders to increase the award amounts given to our college scholarship recipients. I gave careful consideration to assigning conference mentors, forging connections between first-time attendees and seasoned conference goers.

If elected for a second term, I look forward to strengthening these programs to ensure that they are equitable, retain member participation, remove barriers that prevent members from accessing these funds, and encourage input from both members with dwarfism and average height family members in deciding future initiatives.

When Billy Barty founded LPA, I wonder if he imagined that our organization would grow to include more than 7,500 members from all over the world. As we expand our reach and impact, I am proud to honor our legacy of helping people connect to life-changing resources, programs, and a community.

Since 2013, I have had the privilege of serving LPA members in various roles, beginning with the position of LPA's National Teen Coordinator. I developed conference programming, created a teen column for the *LPA Today* magazine, and launched LPA's Teen Ambassador Program. In recognition of my service, I was awarded LPA's Distinguished Service Award.

From 2013-2017, I served as the Liberty Chapter President. My contributions included co-chairing three successful regional conferences, organizing fundraisers which raised thousands of dollars to help offset event costs, and increasing yearly chapter events by 50%.

I served as LPA's National Young Adult Coordinator from 2015-2017. I developed the first national conference programming specifically designed for attendees ages 18-24. I also worked with LPA's Development Director to create the #LOVE4LPA giving campaign targeted to Millennial members.

After serving on the board for a full-term, I made the difficult decision not to run for a consecutive second term due to commitments outside of LPA. To ensure a smooth transition, I created a manual and worked closely with the incoming Programs Director to make sure that he felt well-equipped to be successful. I continued to serve on LPA's scholarship committee and worked as copy editor on the *LPA Today* magazine.

While my dwarfism and involvement in LPA have played an important role in my life, many other experiences have shaped my life as well. I hold a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology, a Master's Degree in Counseling Psychology, and a professional certificate in ADA Compliance. I work at Peirce College in Philadelphia as the Student Disability Services Coordinator. I also enjoy spending time with loved ones, participating in an LP Bible Study, co-leading a Lean In Circle for LP women, and staying connected with my alma mater, Arcadia University, where I served on the Board of Trustees.

At this pivotal time in our organization, I am eager to once again serve in a leadership role to support our shared goals, continue to enhance and grow our programs and their impact, and to break down barriers to make our organization more inclusive and accessible for everyone in our community.