



Get to know University Councillor Kofi Adow, MBA'17:



Smith School of Business. Executive Management Consultant. 2017 EMBA Class Representative and Valedictorian. Affiliations: ACMP PNW Board Member, Queens University Alumni, Cornell University Alumni, Chartered Alternative Investment Association Member, Project Management Institute Member, Prosci Change Management Professionals Member, Donor and advocate of The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. I am originally from Ghana, and I now live in Seattle, WA, where I lead the Organizational Development practice at a Business and IT Consulting firm advising Fortune 1000 companies.

Current term: 2022.

1. What is your job?

I am a Management Consultant and lead for my firm's Organization Development Practice. I advise our clients on how to effectively deliver their strategic initiatives in partnership with their people and achieve the desired Return on Investment. Examples of engagements include Post-merger or acquisition integration, implementing large scale complex IT systems, adjusting to new working environments such as the one we are experiencing today, and many more.

2. Most memorable moment as a student?

- "The Queen's Team Challenge." I learned a lot about the history of Queens University and the campus and sang "Oil Thigh" for the first time.
- The Dinner Boat Cruise with my cohort was a fantastic opportunity to learn more about each other's backgrounds and interests.
- The NFL's International EVP was a guest speaker in our global strategy class, and he spoke candidly with us about the NFL's international framework. That was a great learning experience.
- Getting support from the Queen's network for my MBA "Individual Project" focused on building a West African Consumer-Focused Private Equity fund.

3. What is the best career advice you have ever received?

- Be amongst the best in your profession at something.
- Master the core skills of your craft and repeatedly ask for feedback.
- Having a successful career is a long game, and life outside of work makes it meaningful.
- Develop your professional team. These are colleagues, former colleagues, friends, clients, who you respect, and have a lot of respect for you. These are the people who you fall back on when you hit career pitfalls. Be unfailingly loyal to these people. Help them out whenever you can.
- Success = Work Ethic *Competence* Political Capital. How hard you work, how good your work is, and who likes/trusts you?

4. How do you spend your free time?

I play pick up soccer (aka football), hike with friends, spend time with family, and read to stay informed on current events/trends across several areas of interest. As a Board Director at ACMP Pacific Northwest (a global non-profit organization focused on Change Management), I help facilitate our activities.

5. What motivated you to stand for election for University Council?

My Smith School of Business education and network has been rewarding. In many ways, it refined my thinking and has been invaluable both professional and personal.

A quote that captures my experience is:

The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes, but in having new eyes.
— Marcel Proust.

I want to give back to the Queens University community by applying my experience, resources, and skills to help grow our financial standing, brand, thought leadership, alumni engagement.

I am optimistic that we can make a difference for our students and alumni (current and future) through strong advocacy of our value proposition with relevant, targeted programming focused on the issues that align with their priorities and challenges.

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