As a volunteer, you serve our alma mater in more ways, have a greater impact and are more vital to the alumni association's success than you probably realize. Duke simply wouldn't be as vibrant without your efforts to connect, engage and celebrate our 165,000 alums, the university's largest constituency and one that is unmatched in commitment and enthusiasm.

As a leader in your region, you are Duke's hands, eyes and ears, getting the work done, providing creative input, collecting critical feedback and making suggestions about ways our programs and services can be better. You are also Duke's face and voice. The majority of our alumni do not go back to campus on a regular basis, so their contact with the Duke of today is the volunteer they see in the region where they live. To that alum, YOU are Duke, providing updates about what is happening on campus and serving as a personal info booth of sorts. You are a valuable and treasured resource.

Volunteers have a huge impact. Almost 5,000 AAAC volunteers interview roughly 16,000 applicants each year. There are around 70 Send-Off Parties, 100 Duke Alums Engage projects and a seemingly endless number of events and programs organized by Women's Forum, DEMAN, Faculty Fellows, Duke GEN, Duke Alums Engage, our Affinity Groups (DBA, DUHLAA, LGBTQ Network), regional boards, schools and more. Wow!

The DAA's goal is to broaden, deepen, diversify, strengthen and measure engagement using regional events and programs as the catalyst. Without our small army of Blue Devil volunteers, many of those simply wouldn't happen. It wouldn't be feasible to hire enough staff to manage so much activity and even if we could, most of it would have to happen from afar and the quality would suffer. You are making a difference everyday.

We want to be the best alumni association in the world. We already have world-class staff and accomplished alumni. By providing the proper tools, training and support, we can empower volunteers so that your experience is richer and more meaningful. Being the best simply can't happen without you. I wish there were stronger words than “thank you”, but there are not, so just imagine Blue Devil emoji dancing across the page for effect.

Forever Duke,

Jack Boyd ‘85
President, Duke Alumni Association