

Why You Should Step-up to Leadership Opportunities, Even if You Don't Want to



Michael J. Holia, DTM

Michael J. Holian, DTM, of Chandler, Arizona, is an information technology specialist for CSAA Insurance Group, where he has worked for the past eight years. He is the product owner and administrator for a suite of software collaboration and developmental tools. Holian is the chair of the governance board, responsible for identifying best practices, reviewing proposed changes, and communicating the product roadmap.

Holian attended Chubb Institute of Computer Technology, where he earned a certification in computer programming. He is a community impact champion for his employer and coordinates volunteer activities for fellow employees. Additionally, Holian volunteers his time for the Special Olympics, a local foodbank, and other organizations through his employer.

A Toastmaster since 1992, Holian is a member of his home club, Leader's Plus Toastmasters, in Mesa, Arizona. He has held a number of high-profile leadership positions within Toastmasters and has attained the Distinguished Toastmaster designation—the highest level of educational achievement in the organization.

“Throughout this journey in Toastmasters, I have honed my emotional intelligence, listening, and leadership skills in such a way that I'm able to use these skills every day in my professional life to provide leadership, regardless of organizational standing,” Holian said. “My Toastmaster experience has also expanded my understanding of other people and cultures, providing opportunities for friendships and increasing my understanding of diverse experiences and perspectives.” As a member of the Toastmasters International Board of Directors, Holian is a “working ambassador” for the organization. He works with the Board to develop, support, and modify the policies and procedures that guide Toastmasters International in fulfilling its mission.