



- Victor Petenkemani, class of 2008
- Spanish track
- <https://www.linkedin.com/in/victor-petenkemani/>
- Current country of residence: United States of America

The Lauder community has contributed significantly to my career progression thanks to the unconditional support I have received from members of the community, including faculty, students, alumni, and staff members. Giving back to the Institution has always been a top priority. Joining the LIAA board would be a natural progression to serve in a leadership capacity where my experience in Higher ed. could help guide the strategic orientation of our organization.

Post-graduation, I facilitated the organization of the first Africa immersion program in Cameroon (my country of origin) by connecting Lauder staff members with key local contacts. Lauder's growth on the continent since then has been impressive to the credit of the Lauder leadership. I have also served as class co-captain, participated as a planning committee member of an alumni conference, and helped with the recruitment of new students. This commitment is motivated by my belief in Lauder's unique ability to shape lives and create new opportunities, and my personal drive to expand access to quality education. I have embraced that latter role at Mercy College – the largest private non-for-profit minority serving institution in New-York state – where I currently serve as Associate Dean of the school of business. Under my leadership, the college is creating new pathways for access to affordable American education in Africa which will contribute to upskilling the continent's workforce.

Joining the LIAA board will therefore allow me to 1. guide the strategic orientation of Lauder, building on my higher ed experience 2. engage with the larger community in an official capacity and 3. contribute to expanding access to the Lauder education beyond our already impressive reach