

Surpreet Kaur Candidate Speech

My name is Surpreet Kaur. I am currently a Middle College High School student whilst attending Contra Costa College. First, I'd want to acknowledge the magnitude of the duty that being a Regional Affairs Director entails, and I'd like to add that I've been involved in a variety of organizations and extracurricular activities over the years, allowing me to qualify for the position of Regional Affairs Director. Such positions include serving as Student Trustee for Contra Costa College for the term of 2022-2023.

Being a Regional Affairs Director requires integrity. Integrity means making the right decisions, knowing that they will impact the school positively, and assisting in maintaining a healthy community. As your Regional Affairs director, I would allow direct reviews to develop, facilitate teamwork, and provide autonomy, all of which will lead to an efficient decision-making process.

The main reason for it all is communication. You need to be able to communicate with people with different opinions, roles, and positions. If you are not an effective communicator it leads to failings while in the position of being a Regional Affairs Director. I have grasped that the position is about a group of people working together to make effective decisions and make sure issues are resolved in an efficient manner.

I place great value on my dedication to Vision for Success. As my experience in the start of being Trustee, I have the opportunity to interact with students on issues that the system must solve. This can involve difficulties such as student debt, student housing, textbook costs, and so on. We must ensure that students are supported, with resources and assistance in achieving their goals. No student should ever feel excluded because of their appearance, race, gender, sexuality, or any other factor. Students are the foundation of the educational system. These factors should not deter students, but rather ensure that they are given top priority.

I believe many issues that students currently face are due to inequitable division of resources. For example, students with prior convictions become ineligible for many opportunities within the college system. Non-discriminatory financial aid as well as universal equitable grading policies adopted statewide can create a more supportive and restorative system. It is my hope that students from all walks of life be given equal access to financial services and higher learning opportunities regardless of things such as prior convictions or lack of educational successes in their past.

As a first generation student, and a daughter of immigrants I have experienced first hand lack of cultural, linguistic, and gender representation on campuses overall. I find myself suited to serve on the SSCCC Board of Directors, I believe myself to be open minded in my desire for equitable learning spaces for all students. In addition I believe that I bring compassion and conviction to the table, making sure I am uplifting all voices.

Finally, I believe in being eager not only about what you're doing but also about the school and its mission. I'd like to leave a positive impression.