



HESTIA SARTIKA

College of the Canyons, Student Trustee

SSCCC REGION VI VICE CHAIR

**After reviewing the job description for the position, what activities and special skills make you qualified, and why are you running for this position?**

My diverse background and skill set make me an excellent candidate for the Region VI Vice Chair of the Student Senate for California Community Colleges (SSCCC). As a Board of Trustee Member at College of the Canyons, I've honed skills in leadership and strategic decision-making, aligning with the Vice Chair's role in leading and maintaining effective communication. My tenure as the NV/CA Regional VP of Technology for Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society International has sharpened my digital platform management skills, crucial for handling official documents and accountability reports.

With an extensive background in technology, project management, and software engineering, I am adept at strategizing, team management, and implementing solutions. My commitment to advocating for LGBTQ and disability student rights, demonstrated through initiatives like the open pantry and community legal clinic, underscores my dedication to student welfare. I am passionate about representing student interests, their rights and contributing to the SSCCC's mission with my technical and leadership expertise.

**Please briefly discuss the core commitments of the Vision for Success and your understanding of diversity, equity, and inclusion.**

As a woman in STEM and an immigrant from Indonesia, my journey has been integral to my commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, aligning with the Vision for Success. Overcoming challenges like learning English as a third language, enduring poverty, and facing homelessness at a young age, I have firsthand experience with cultural differences and systemic barriers. These experiences have shaped my ambition to foster environments in education and the workplace where diversity is celebrated, equity is actively pursued, and inclusion is the standard.

I deeply understand and value diversity, shaped by my gender, culture, and immigrant background. I'm committed to ensuring that individuals have the resources and support they need to thrive. For me, inclusion means creating spaces where diverse voices are heard and respected, integral to decision-making. My goal is to use my experiences to advocate for policies and initiatives that promote a more inclusive, equitable, and diverse community, reflecting my dedication to helping others overcome similar challenges.

**What issue(s) in higher education are you most dedicated to addressing and why?**

There are four issues that I am fervently dedicated to addressing several key issues in higher education. **Transparency** is at the forefront, particularly in representing the Student Senate for California Community Colleges (SSCCC). Maintaining high integrity and accountability is crucial for effective communication with external stakeholders and clarifying our legislative priorities, ensuring that their concerns and needs are accurately represented and addressed. Moreover, I am focused on **removing parking fees** at community colleges. These fees can be a significant barrier for students already struggling with basic needs. Eliminating these fees will make higher education more accessible and less stressful for many students.

Another critical area is providing **basic needs rights to night students**, not just those attending during the day. It's vital that all students, regardless of their class schedule, have easy access to necessary resources, as they all contribute equally to school fees. Finally, I advocate for the **rights to legal counsel** for students in need, akin to health or psychology clinics. Legal challenges shouldn't be an obstacle to student success, and providing this support is a step towards a more equitable educational environment.