

Like everyone who wishes to serve on this board, I hold in high regard the concept of giving back, and wish to serve the student body in making college life a more enriching experience for all involved. What may differentiate me from other applicants is a rich history of character-building life experience. I am a wife, a mother, a survivor, and a fighter. Regardless of extraordinary hardships I have faced, I choose to persevere. I am living proof that there is virtually nothing one cannot recover from.

I have excelled at Rutgers in many aspects. I received the Award for Academic Excellence, as well as being inducted into Rutgers' prestigious Matthew Leydt Society. I have been asked to speak at several educational events, including presenting at the Rutgers Online Conference this year regarding the integration of social networking with online learning. In addition, I sit on the Consumer Advisory Council on Education and Training (CACET) through Rutgers University.

At my last college, I was elected president of the inaugural chapter of To Write Love on Her Arms, a non-profit created to help people dealing with depression, self-injury, addiction and suicidal ideation. This was a wonderful opportunity for me to work with a board of passionate people who wanted to serve students in sharing their struggles and developing tools to facilitate mental health.

I now want to take that experience forward to the newly forming SGA. I am confident that I can serve cohesively with a team in spearheading this new venture, which will provide the student body and staff with a markedly improved quality of college life for SHP students.

I feel that the SGA should be held to be a smooth-running machine where the executive board is communicating appropriately with all other entities. As we are in place to represent the SHP population, student's wants and needs should be paramount in the creation of policy. SHP is populated with students all working toward degrees in the health professions, but interests and cultures are as diversified as any other broad-based university. Diversity will be honored, and the creation of organizations by the student body strongly encouraged and supported. Unity is also an issue to be addressed, as SHP is represented by students on several campuses and online. The option for inclusion is an important concept that should be handled by the SGA, and ways to bridge the gaps will be found.

Leadership has always been a theme in my life, and I find myself more passionately branching out to help others as years pass. Because I am excelling in my scholastic ventures, I find myself often asked to advise my peers. I am finishing up my BSHS degree with a concentration in Psych Rehab, and will be going from there into my Master's program at Rutgers, continuing the Psych Rehab path. Hired through my internship, I am now responsible for serving people coming out of homelessness, and gain tremendous amounts of satisfaction making a difference while they are at this critical time in their lives. Linking these clients to necessary services and supporting them in their struggles has brought me to a place where I am receiving a greater sense of purpose in my life. I am realizing the depth of difference I make in others' lives, and am ready to expand to the next level. I believe that these qualities uniquely qualify me to hold the office of Student Government Association President.