

2016-2017

ASBCC Voter's Guide



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(Verified and Created by the Office of Student Activities and Campus Life – March 2016)

2016 ASBCC Voters Guide



Vivian Allen: President

My name is Vivian Allen I am a sophomore at Berkeley City College (BCC). I was born and raised in Oakland and I started at BCC in fall of 2013. Directly following my high school graduation, I had the incredible opportunity to go on a nationwide tour as a background singer for Disney Channel star Zendaya Coleman. This once in a lifetime experience taught me two very important lessons. One is that it is essential to take advantage of any opportunity that presents itself. Perhaps more importantly, without the willingness to work hard, no opportunity that presents itself will be successful. As exciting as it was, it was always my intention to enroll in college because I see it as the key to my future. My first year at BCC, I hadn't decided on a major. I signed up for courses that didn't fulfil any general education requirements and in retrospect wasted a lot of precious time. However, throughout my navigation of the community college system, I see that all of my stops and starts have led me to become the student leader I feel I am today.

My involvement in the political and social aspects of the BCC campus has far surpassed my expectations and has truly changed my life. Furthermore, involvement in the political process is absolutely crucial to effecting change in any community. As current President of the Black Student Union, one of the largest and most active clubs on campus, I have learned a great deal about what it takes to lead a group of people to success in a variety of situations. From networking connections, with student groups at CAL, to traveling to the Annual Legislative Conference in Washington D.C., I have learned the value of intently listening to all debate. This is a common aspect of showing due respect to each and everyone involved in political decisions. Another important element in being an effective leader is to follow through on all actions and discussions initiated. There is an inherent responsibility for all leaders to continue through each and every decision process, in the hopes of achieving a positive outcome.

Accountability, communication, and maturity are important ingredients for effective leadership. This is especially true here at BCC, a school that attracts such as diversity in age, race, and socioeconomic status. I believe I will be a very successful President of Associated Students at BCC because I am a reflection of that same diversity. I am a multi-racial young woman that comes from a family of many different shades and backgrounds. My varied sense of personal identity makes me more capable to communicate and foster relationships with all the students, faculty and staff at BCC. I am incredibly optimistic about my academic future and I am equally as enthusiastic about the infinite potential each and every one of us has here at BCC. A vote for me is a call for action! Vote me as your next President of Associated students at Berkeley City College!



Elijah-Brian Dabney: President

I want to continue helping improve Berkeley City College. If we as students do not take action into how our school is formed, the school will not form around us, in turn we will have to conform to it. I believe we do enough conforming trying to fit into society, the last thing we as students need is another institution to tell us how we must change and it will be better for us; Without even asking us or truly taking our views and input into consideration. I plan to be a President for the student body instead of a President of the student body. Many of you already know me; you've seen me in the atrium and in your club meeting or club events. I am a very active student here at Berkeley City College; it's not home campus it's my only campus. As President of a club here on campus I know the struggles the clubs face getting money. Priority number one is I plan to ease that process. I have had to personally loan money to clubs like BSU so that they can have events here on campus. Therefore, this should never happen at any institution. Priority number two is ensuring the allocation of resources are fair not equal. Equality is the fair treatment of students not the equal treatment students. Many international and domestic students never get the proper help or resources made available to them. **College should be a road to success not a road trough struggles into a life of struggles!!**



Lorenzo Lewis: President

My name is Lorenzo Lewis, and I am running for the President of the Associated Students. A little about myself, I've been a Berkeley native since Pre-K and have a fond passion for education and the process of learning knowledge and understanding reality (cuz reality is based). Before we get too existential and deep let me tell you about my how I ended up here. This is my fourth semester at BCC and I plan on transferring at the end of next year to a four year. I study Political Science and Psychology, and plan to major with both of my passions once I reach UC Berkeley. I am an avid member of the BCC community, and although I only have classes 3 days a week, you'll most likely find me somewhere around the campus everyday. . . I just can't get work done at home. You can usually spot me hanging out in the student government office, or chatting with friends in the atrium. I also participate in many of the awesome clubs we have on campus, to name a few: Asian Pacific Islander Club, Black Student Union, mindfulness and meditation, and I also run the Students for Bernie Chapter here at BCC. Feelin' the Bern this election season? Furthermore, I understand the ins and outs of our student government *very* well. When I first got to BCC I quickly became involved in the Associated Students. My first position was senator of academic services, in that same semester I also got involved in the Student Senate for California Community Colleges, where I and other representatives traveled to Southern California to represent BCC and pushed for resolutions that bettered our home campus. My second year at BCC I joined the judicial council as grievance justice, while taking on an executive position in the Political Science Student Association. I'm the best candidate for this position because a qualified candidate, one who understands the cumbersome bureaucracy of our student government is what our associated students need. I encompass these attributes due to my experience on the legislative branch, judicial branch, and involvement with shared governance on the administrative level. It's a well-known fact that our student government is not the most efficient or beneficial, due to our lack of communication with the administration and the tedious process of disseminating funds to clubs, who currently, cannot receive the money they are entitled to. This is why my political party, The Krakens!, first act of business will be to ensure that the funding process for clubs runs more smoothly, and also to clear any ambiguity surrounding what members of student government do. These are the two most important steps for creating a stronger community, and I intend on accomplishing both of these goals and more with the aid of my fellow Krakens! Thank you for considering my candidacy for President.

Political Party: KRAKEN



Dave Ivan Cruz: Vice President of Administration

Greetings! I am Dave Cruz, candidate for re-election as ASBCC Vice President of Administration, and Peralta Community Colleges Student Trustee. I grew up in the Philippines and arrived in the US two years ago. I love to sing and dance a lot. In fall 2014, I decided to continue my collegiate career. The following semester, I grabbed the opportunity to serve as your Senator and from there I started gaining knowledge and found great importance in representing fellow students and underrepresented communities at the college and even statewide levels through participation at the Student Senate for California Community Colleges General Assemblies. At present, I serve as President of BCC Filipino Students Alliance, BCC Student Ambassador, and Communications Officer for SSCCC Region III. I helped and/or worked on events such as Mental Health Awareness Week in spring 2015 and Pasko sa BCC (Christmas at BCC) in fall 2015 which aimed to bring awareness and provide community and campus life to students. Some of my goals for the upcoming academic year include accountability for council members and making sure we do our best to represent you. Also, to empower and strengthen student voice on campus! I want YOU to advocate for the rights of present and future generations of community college students. Together, WE can make it happen!

Political Party: KRAKEN



Charles Philips: Vice President of Programs

I am a highly qualified candidate through my previous experience in student government. I have served all this academic year as the Judicial Council representative on the Inter Club Council (ICC). When the position of Vice President of Programs position was vacant in the beginning part of the spring semester I stepped up and helped mitigate the backlog of clubs attempting to charter and re-charter. Additionally, I have been observing the bureaucratic workings of the Associated Student Body (ASBCC) and the ICC and have plans for reforms I would like work on in order for the ASBCC and ICC to more effectively serve the student body as a whole. Specifically, I would like to work closely with the Vice President of Finance to reform the convoluted and over-complicated club funding process. Thank you. **Political Party: KRAKEN**



Ishmael Rico: Vice President of Finance

I would be a great choice for the Finance position because I have done the finances for two sole proprietorships that have run smoothly since their launches. During my time at San Leandro High School, I successfully wrote and presented re-branding, innovative product, and franchising plans that have earned awards and recognition in regional and state competitions. During my senior year, I co-founded a student run store that generates scholarship money for San Leandro's Academy of Business & Finance Seniors. These activities required me to allocate funds for activities, products, and balance cash flow while also considering the future of funding and forecasting for years to come. These forecast required me to weigh the cause and effects of money distribution, while ensure funds are reserved for emergencies and future expenditures. These past experiences have helped me consistently throughout my educational and professional life. I would love to share these skills with Berkeley City College. **Political Party: KRAKEN**



Jeshua John: Vice President of Finance

As I run for Vice President of Finance, I want to acknowledge that creating an environment conducive to success isn't easy. As a Business student, I understand that the challenge of allocating finances to meet everyone's needs is even greater when serving a student body as diverse as Berkeley City College's—this school is a melting pot for students and faculty, and it is important that we are able to accommodate the many backgrounds that are represented on our campus. Growing up in a biracial home, I was taught to love diversity and different backgrounds, regardless of person's racial or ethnic background, sexual orientation, or physical abilities. If elected as the Vice President of Finance, my goal would be to stand in as the student voice for the allocation of our funds and resources, making sure that in every way possible, we are consistently making decisions that support us as students. Specifically, I would like to ensure the school's finances are effectively put toward: (1) quality counseling resources, knowing that for many students being able to transfer successfully is a vital component of their community college journey, I want to ensure that as a community, we are all provided with accurate and up to date information, that will maximize our chances to reach our professional and personal goals, (2) professional support and placement programs, to connect students to opportunities for personal professional development and career networking, whether that may be help with developing a resume, finding an internship or financial counseling, and (3) building more health and wellness activities to create a more holistic, community-centered school. Most students have not been informed about the already available resources like the CC Wellness program, which allows three sessions of massage or acupuncture to each Berkeley City College student. I want to make sure that these programs are heard of and adequately supported financially to better support our community here at Berkeley City College. Many of us work outside of classes, and having the knowledge that the money we work for is being put to good use is something I want to help us fight for. Berkeley City College is more than just a stepping stone to me—it is a community of individuals from all walks of life, brimming with potential and experiences to share. As a fellow student, I understand that there is often a belief that there is very little power in student government. Even for me, as a fellow student, I often find it difficult to see my voice implemented in a big student community like Berkeley City College. Ultimately, I am running because I do not want any of you to face such experiences; this is a community I care about, it is my home, and I want you all to feel supported in whatever you choose to pursue, personally, academically, or professionally.



Connie Tran: Vice President of Public Relations

I would be a great candidate for Public Relations because the goal of the Vice President of Public Relations is to lead the Marketing Committee and to be able to promote student services. I think that I am the candidate for that--I am a Student Ambassador as well as a Student Assistant in the Learning Communities. As a Student Ambassador, I assist students in adjusting to the campus. I also represent Berkeley City College's diverse community. As a Learning Communities Student Assistant, I am able to promote educational outreach and student success while expanding my skills. I am also the President of Asian Pacific Islander Club--APIC--as President; I am able to display my leadership skills. I am someone who is determined and I hope as Vice President of Public Relations, I am able to transfer those applicable skills to the Associated Students of Berkeley City College. **Political Party: KRAKEN**



Adyam Abraham: Senator

Hello, my name is Adyam Abraham. You may have seen me around campus. Born and raised in Oakland, the Bay Area has been home to me all my life. Knowing people who make up my community is important to me and it takes strong a community to accomplish great things. When I first got to BCC I was pretty lost and unsure about college and life. I struggled getting adjusted to college life and navigating myself. I started working as a Student Ambassador here, and I then began to learn the ins and outs of Berkeley City College. I attained the knowledge about resources available for students; the infinite tools to maximize our success. Whether it is programs that provide students with textbooks, or the immense amounts of scholarships and opportunities out there for experience. I was able to help students register for classes, meet with counselors, help them complete their financial aid and show them around and about BCC. I was utterly shocked at how much was available for us students. While connecting with my community and getting to know incredible people from all walks of life, I learned a lot about myself as well. I found it extremely rewarding to be able to help students. This is now my third year at BCC, and I would like to give back to a place, and the people who have given and shared so much with me. I would now like to be a senator for you all. I want to be able to provide services, and maintain organized sustainability in our community, to ensure that BCC is a place where you can thrive, and where you have a voice. I would like to be the bridge that gets your ideas, thoughts, grievances and solutions put to action. I would be a great candidate because I am here to support you and work for the people. Thank you!



Svetlana Chyette: Senator

I have always been a passionate person. I have the drive to fight for the underdog when no one else gives them a voice to be heard and after my father ran for city council, I knew that I wanted to follow in his footsteps and help enact change at a school that has been my life for the past two years. I am currently running on Lorenzo's Slate. I want to help by taking a seat as a student Senator on the Legislative Branch. It is my understanding that each Senator gets a specialty, and while everything seems of particular importance to me, the idea of sustainability and of working with transfer students would both fulfill me, and give me an opportunity to give back. I am planning on transferring at the end of next school year hopefully to UC Davis; I want to leave this school in a better spot than it is now. I have sat in on a meeting about the upcoming move to the Milvia Street building and I am excited to have more of a say in what happens. I want to help streamline the transfer program and make the process more accessible to those students who may be overwhelmed. If I get chosen for sustainability I want to help make this campus a green campus. I want to help create changes that not only will help the school in the long run, but also help the school create a lesser environmental impact. Therefore, generations to come can enjoy our beautiful planet.

I also have a history of working in aspects of medical-mental health. Being an EMT has given me many opportunities to learn how to advocate for my patient's needs, and I have no fear of speaking in front of large groups of people. If there is a person who helps to bridge the gap between the mental health services and the students I might also be a prime candidate for that as well. I have been in the DSPS program for the duration of my time at Berkeley City College and I know that I can be of help to those who do not know how to get help. If I am chosen to sit on the ASBCC council, I promise that I will not only give each project I am faced with 100% participation, I will not let things go unsaid. I will advocate for those who cannot speak for themselves and make this college an even better place than it is today. I am confident with how active I have been in student clubs that I can communicate to the larger population effectively and efficiently. Vote for me, Svetlana, for Student Senator Fall 2016!



Anqui Zou: Senator

I came from China to started studying at BCC about 2 years ago. My major is Business Administration because I want to make my creative thoughts became true one day. I also try to startup with my friends during the period of studying here. This is my last year in BCC and I plan to transfer to UC Berkeley or UCLA. I really loved BCC because I learned much and have many experiences here. In my last year, I hope I can do something for BCC; this is the reason why I try to elect BCSSA. I'm an international student that came from China alone. When I came here two years ago, I know nothing and feel alone all the time. Thanks to former student associated president teaches me much and help me out of the difficult time. Now I also want to do something to help other international students and do something for BCC. I would be a good candidate because I have the passion to learn and to help others. In my spare time, I usually help new classmates study and am a volunteer in UC village. Now I hope I can have a chance to help more people. I'm also willing to meet many different people. I have the experience of startup business with friends so I know how to cooperate with a team. I hope I can achieve my thoughts of making BCC better with BCSSA. Therefore, I think I can be a great candidate and try my best to do the work.



Robert Pinzon: Senator

I feel that many students struggle with more than just academics. Sometimes, we as students face problems we cannot handle but keep striving for a better education. I believe it is incredibly important for the student's voice to be heard and give students the option to form a bigger community. Regardless of how small or how big the problem is my goal is to have the student's needs met so you do not have to face any problem alone. We are all students, we are all human, and we're all one. Why me? Besides me being open-minded, I have been able to not only successfully manage clubs but improve them. In addition, I have been part of Relay for Life for four years, which gave me the opportunity to not only give hope to people, but Co-Lead a city wide event. I am sure I have the experience to not only perform as senator but progress as senator. Although experience is important, I feel the most important attribute is this drive to want to help and want to do great in it. **Political Party: KRAKEN**



Davis Belilty: Senator

Originally from New Jersey, I came to Berkeley City College in the summer of 2015. I was initially attracted to the area because of the culture and life that the Bay Area has to offer, after being more engaged in Berkeley City College, I realized that this institution has so much more to offer, and my unique perspective can help make that shine. Berkeley City College has an extremely high international student population, as someone who has spent years backpacking the world and majoring in International Relations, I believe I can be a voice for this significant aspect of our student body. Being in an area that is festured with serious academics and professionals, I believe that Berkeley City College could extract more from the community to enrich the student experience at our institution. As a senator, I would plan to go out into the community, learn about the resources we can use, make strategic partnerships with individuals and other organizations, and increase our overall presence in the East Bay. Politics has always been a passion of mine, in my senior year of High School; I received an honorable mention as an outstanding delegate at 'The New Jersey Model United Nations Conference'. Since high school, I have been largely uninvolved politically, a chance to re-enter the arena and start solving problems again would be a dream come true. As a dedicated 4.0 student, my commitment, perseverance, and reliability will surely not go unnoticed. If elected, I hope the ASBCC's collective effort will be able to make a significantly positive impact on the students and faculty at Berkeley City College! **Political Party: KRAKEN**



Wen Zhu: Senator

Joining the ASBCC is always one of my dreams since I been here. Students in this college started this great effort on 1995 and leave a lot treasure to us. The talking in college is always about the healthcare matters, education matters and minority population rights matters. It's all matters and I feel happy to see the possibility of what we can do for our future in this college. Because I also puzzled about those kind of matters.

It's no doubt that my experiences of student government in high school give me a lot of confidence and mission sense of making difference. I know fighting for benefits is always a hard way that requires a lot of efforts and insistence. I am profoundly grateful to all of you for giving me the chance to serve you; I will do everything I can to be worthy of your benefits and trust.



Steven Marin: Senator

I would be a great candidate for a leadership position within the ASBCC, because I have a genuine passion to help the students of Berkeley City College, whether it is with help for a class, help for a club, or listening to students' challenges outside of school with empathetic ears. I am an ideal candidate for a position with the Associated Students of Berkeley City College, because I have prior experience about the bureaucracy that takes place within the ASBCC meetings and the Inter Club Council meetings. Moreover, I would be able to provide information to those students who are unsure as to what they would need to do as a member of the ICC and ASBCC. I believe this experience allows me to help students get integrated as to how things function within these meetings. I believe I can motivate other students by letting them know about the resources available to help them succeed. For instance, not a lot of students are aware that they may start a club, or that there is funding for clubs who are already chartered. I believe I can motivate students to want to advocate for themselves. The best way to get students to want to advocate for a cause they are passionate about is to have a community backing them up. For example, when I first enrolled into Berkeley City College, I was unaware of the clubs that were present at BCC, until one of my professor's mentioned the Latin American Club. She invited me to go to one of meetings, so I did, and ever since then, I have made many new connections with Latinos and other non-Latino people. I strongly believe that the information and support I received from the Latin American Club allowed me to get motivated as to how I can make an impact on the students of Berkeley City College. I am an ideal candidate for the ASBCC, because I want to lead projects that benefit the students of Berkeley City College and the community of Berkeley as a whole. **Political Party: KRAKEN**