

**BERKELEY CITY COLLEGE'S
2024-2025**

VOTER'S GUIDE



BERKELEY CITY COLLEGE

1974

TRANSFORMING LIVES

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Voter Guide

Voter's Guide:

Use the Berkeley City College's Voter's Guide to get to know all candidate's missions better and meet the candidates who are running for the Student Trustee and ASBCC positions.

How and Where to Vote:

Online voting will begin on Tuesday, April 9th and end on Wednesday, April 10th. The [website link](#) will be posted on Berkeley City College's student election page and will also be posted around the campus. Student may not vote on behalf of other students, and a student ID is required.

Meet the Candidates

President

Himali KC

Hello! My name is Himali KC and I am currently a student ambassador here at BCC and have been a member of the associated student board as a senator since my first semester of Fall 2023. In these positions I listen to students' needs throughout the day and help them to the best of my ability. As a first year student I understand the need for support and joining these positions helps me work towards being welcoming to students of many backgrounds to guide them through their new beginnings.

I am running for ASBCC President because I am passionate about creating a more engaging and lively community on campus through clubs, which will correspondingly provide resources for students to be able to help them succeed. Due to the many events during last year's school term, clubs were significantly limited to what they could request due to finances and were not allowed to fundraise, leading to less student outreach. If I am elected, I would investigate how to

fundraise and overcome this limit that will in turn, allow clubs to host events to a larger scale and provide further learning opportunities to benefit the student body as a whole. The community would greatly benefit as I would be working to push opportunities and resources that may be helpful to students who may not be able to readily access them, but are seeking to heighten themselves through our campus here. With my mission for the school in mind, I hope that you consider me as your future student body president. Thank you so much for your time and if you have any questions for me, please feel free to find me at the welcome desk and ask me :)





Stefaniya Shevtsova

When you receive, you give.

It's only recently that I've really understood what my parents always taught me.

I am running for President to give all students the opportunity to feel safe, understood, and valued. My goal is to make you feel empowered, realize your potential and feel part of our welcoming community.

As an international student, I arrived here last semester with no knowledge of the American system and faced many personal and academic challenges. I felt underwater. At this point, I had two options: choose the blue pill and sink or the red pill and learn to swim. By opting for the red pill, I opened

myself up to new opportunities and connections, which enabled me to become the Inter-Council club representative, join the Women's Leadership club as secretary and additionally become president of the Running club, founded this semester. I want to give all of you, BCC students, the opportunity to choose the red pill.

My aim is to:

- Raise awareness about the opportunities on campus. Promote available positions, to diversify BCC's student committees and organizations.
- Expand access to healthcare services on campus and promote physical fitness and mental health activities and workshops.
- Organize networking events, invite alumni and professionals to present internship opportunities, resume workshops, personal brand promotion and more.
- Promoting art and cultures: creating exhibitions featuring student work and inviting professionals for master classes.
- Advocate for policies that ensure equal opportunities for all students. (International and national).
- Support and raise awareness of events already taking place at BCC.
- Bring back free parking for students? More free lunches?

Above all, I want to hear your voice, your needs and your concerns to make your experience at BCC as rewarding as possible.

With sincere appreciation for your consideration,
Stefaniya

VP of Admin

Kenneth Rice

Greetings, Berkeley City College (BCC), my name is Kenneth Rice and I am running for the Vice President of Administration (VPA) position. I am a second-year student who has seen the positive impact of student events and wants to continue supporting students to allow them the creativity and freedom to organize themselves. I value feedback so I'll make myself easy to reach and encourage students to speak at ASBCC meetings.

The VPA ensures the council members are informed of their duties and presiding over the council in the president's absence. This requires the VPA to have a solid understanding of how ASBCC functions and up-to-date knowledge of recent concerns to verify the council focuses on student needs.

I've observed ASBCC meetings since spring 2023 and it inspired me to participate in ensuring student perspectives are heard. I became a student representative for the distance education committee in the fall of 2023 and have reported to the council numerous times. I am a student ambassador at the school's front desk who answers questions and reports student concerns. As I communicate frequently with other departments I hear information I can relay to students, like events or knowledge about clubs. As a club officer, I know firsthand how important clubs are. I want to ensure new and old clubs are supported and know how to access campus resources. I've been an officer in the Asian Pacific Islander LEAD club for two years. Making a social place for students and promoting Asian culture at BCC has been our mission. I've had the pleasure of orchestrating club events and want to ensure future students have the opportunity to celebrate their ideas and culture. I've enjoyed the benefits of being a BCC student, I want to give back to this community through the VPA role.





Jennifer Cancilla

Hello everyone, my name is Jennifer Cancilla and I am running for the position of Vice President of Administration in Berkeley City College's Student Government.

As an officer and co-founder of the running club at Berkeley City College, I have seen how important community and action can impact students on campus.

If I am elected, I will prioritize initiatives that will enhance student services, promote sustainability and programs. I also want to work on expanding opportunities for student engagement while providing students with the resources and support they need to succeed.

Above all, I am committed to honest and accountable leadership. I believe in the importance of open communication, and collaboration in decision-making processes.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Cancilla

VP of Finance

Tenzin Jungney



Hi everyone! I'm Tenzin Jungney, a first year running for the VP of Finance position.

Although I'm only a first year student, I already have experience with ASBCC under my belt. I'm currently the Secretary on the executive board and the student representative on the District Facilities Committee.

Therefore, I understand the various intricacies regarding the function of ASBCC as a whole, allowing my goals to be both practical and achievable.

This year, clubs came across certain issues regarding their finances, which in turn has limited their outreach and event holding capabilities. As the VP of Finance, I hope to fully clarify the financial process for clubs to draw out of funds. I plan on collaborating with the VP of Programs and ICC Newsletter Coordinator to provide biweekly budget reports and create clear cut financial steps for club leaders.

As a student leader, inclusivity will be one of my main focuses. I was fortunate enough to have already known some of the students here from high school, allowing me to quickly network with others and be in the loop of various opportunities. However, I understand that many of you didn't have that luxury. I wish to fully maximize student participation in the following semesters and use my position to highlight campus opportunities for all members of the student body, creating a community that is inclusive.



Alexander Vi

Hello, fellow students at the Peralta Community College system,

I am writing this statement to showcase my interest in the role of Vice President of Finance at Berkeley City College. My wish is to try to have a strong community for students to feel secure in their goals of attaining higher education.

Throughout my professional career, some things I've learned in management are things such as budgeting, risk assessment, and also marketing. My goal is to take the things I have learned and apply them at Berkeley City College so that students can find help to ensure their financial wellness when striving for higher education.

One of my greatest strengths is financial planning and ensuring that funds are allocated to the right places. I am passionate about helping others plan out for the future and helping them understand the crucial building blocks of financial success. Since I've laid out some of my goals I have started a finance club at Berkeley City College that aims to provide opportunities for financial success for all.

The goal of Berkeley City College to provide education to all is close to my heart and aligns with my values of the right to pursue higher education. I am committed to making this campus a safe and welcoming space for ALL students.

In the role of Vice President of Finance, I hope to help students feel as if they were home and welcomed with warm arms. One of the crucial parts of doing so is to ensure a community with a strong foundation that can allocate funds properly.

Thank you for taking the time to read my statement of interest and I wish everyone the best. I am excited and looking forward to working with everyone.

Sincerely,

Alex



Hameed Alghaithi

Hello, fellow Berkeley City College peers! I am Hameed, aspiring to be your next ASBCC Vice President of Finance for the 2024–25 school year. My engagement with our vibrant campus life has been a journey of learning and contribution. In my time here, I've taken on roles that have both challenged and enriched me, such as founding the Chess Club, VP of Finance for the Psychology Club, and VP of Marketing for the FBLA-PBL, a business-based club. These experiences have not only deepened my understanding of what the BCC community needs to thrive but have also sparked my commitment to improving our campus.

BCC is a place where ideas flourish and diversity thrive. It's here that I want to ensure your innovative projects and events receive the support they need to succeed. My goal is to refine our financial processes to better support your ideas and initiatives, ensuring that accessing funds is straightforward. I also aim to advocate for and enhance student-led activities and events while directly responding to your needs and ideas.

By choosing me, you're endorsing a vision that helps all student-led clubs and organizations thrive through smart and straightforward financial support. I'm committed to making our financial system a catalyst for student success, ensuring that every voice is heard, and every idea has the opportunity to shine. My promise is to work diligently for you and with you, fostering an environment where every student's voice is heard and valued.

Let's make a difference. Together.

VP of Programs

Siew Ping Lee (Lorna)

Hi everyone, my name is Lorna Lee. I am the current Inter-Club Council (ICC) Newsletter Coordinator. Each week I promote club events that are happening on campus by collecting events and sending these events out through student emails. I recognize how difficult it is to adapt to a new environment as a new student at Berkeley City College (BCC), I therefore wish to provide current students and future students at BCC with a pillar of support by being able to find a community through the various clubs at BCC while continuing to uphold the tradition of inclusivity that BCC has. I wish to run for Associated Students of Berkeley City College (ASBCC) student government as Vice President of Programs here at BCC to be your voice and shine a light on the issues that we as students face. If I am part of your student government, I will strive to promote ICC through Instagram and host more ICC events by collaborating with club officers to cater to the wide range of student interests at BCC such as cross-cultural student exchange events for students of different backgrounds at BCC to further unite and integrate local and foreign students and to removal cultural barriers to cater to the diverse demographic background of BCC. I recognize the time, commitment, and dedication required to be a student government here at BCC and I'm willing to commit to serving every one of you as your student leader. Vote for me to allow me to serve you and work with the student government to bring about a vibrant, compassionate, and equal community by upholding equal and accessible opportunities for all students. Feel free to drop me a message or tell me in person, and I promise to do my best to help you within my means.





Nicolas Davalos

Hello there! My name is Nicolas Davalos and I am running for the position of Vice president of programs. I am a first-year student who started off wanting to participate in the student body. Now I am a senator in ASBCC who wants to climb up in the ranks since I want to have more of an impact on the student body in BCC, and contribute to making BCC a place where students are more inclined to participate in activities on campus.

So far BCC has been an amazing campus to be a part of and I want to be a part of making it a great experience for all. BCC has many clubs that give students the opportunity to explore their interests with others like them. This is the reason why the role of vice president of programs fits me. It is in my interest to create more events that are centered around clubs, so that more students could participate in the campus and join clubs. With the help of my experience with being an officer for the Electronics and Engineering club and a senator for ASBCC. I will make sure that the clubs are also getting the help they need to boost the quality of their events. I will also work with my peers in ASBCC to make it so that more clubs can successfully host large events, which will increase the amount of student participation on campus and the amount of people joining clubs.

Overall, my entire goals revolve around what the student body wants, my top priority will be to hear out student voices on improvements clubs or events can have. As a community, we will make BCC a great campus for all to explore their interests.

VP of Public Relations

Benjamin Makaena Niihau-Ashby

My name is Benjamin Makaena Niihau-Ashby, and I am running for Vice President of Public Relations because I want to provide students with crucial, quick, and credible information.

My goals:

1. Boosting Social Media Presence:

- Increase views and followers by 100% on key platforms within the next six months.
- Share everything students need to know about what's happening at BCC on social media, through interactive and brief videos.

2. Interactive Student Engagement:

- Students at BCC will play a role through weekly interviews, highlighting our diverse students' experiences and perspectives.

3. Enhance Student Satisfaction:

- Launch a free weekly candy giveaway program to increase student satisfaction by 30%.
- Conduct surveys of the top five brands students want to see, and provide a constant selection of gummy, chocolate, nut free, and diet friendly candy.

4. Collaboration with Student Clubs and Organizations:

- Promote diverse interests crucial to the community building on our campus.
- Work with student organizations to bring all the exciting activities that clubs do to a wider student audience.

Your voice matters, and together, we can enhance our campus experience.





Mars Francis

Hi, I'm Mars Francis. I am majoring in political science and rock climb in my free time. I chose to run for VP of public relations because I LOVE people, communicating is a big strong suit of mine. This school is full of beautiful, unique individuals and I want to highlight them and make that a strong characteristic of BCC, a place where our differences can be celebrated.



Samuel Tsogbe

Honestly I'll keep it simple. My Goal is to fight for us and the things we want. The fight is about us getting more funding for food and parking. The other colleges have both of these things. Even tho we are the most populous or social colleges I feel out of all four Peralta colleges. That's it thank you.

Senators

Gianmarco Mazzella

Hello, my name is Gianmarco Mazzella. I am running for one of the Senator positions. The main reason why I am running for this role is because I love being as involved as possible in my community by helping to make beneficial decisions, and I think this position would allow me to do it.

My goal is to represent the student voice, which in a lot of institutions and realities is something really hard to provide. I am also prompted to work towards enhancing the BCC experience by addressing issues related to campus facilities, events, and extracurricular activities, but most importantly guaranteeing inclusivity and diversity.

The reason why people should vote for me is because I maintain a high level of professionalism while at the same time being empathic and closest to the students as much as possible. I had the opportunity to work as a school representative in my life, so I know how to optimally operate in decision-making situations while also taking into consideration the students' best interests.





Kimiya Farzam

I am interested in being a senator for the student government as I want to be involved in the BCC community. I have been a part of the ASBCC for almost 2 semesters and it's been a wonderful learning opportunity. Gathering with other students each week is a great way to be involved with the campus and student life. I'd love to continue to be a part of it next semester as a senator.

After being a part of the campus for a few months, one of my main goals is to make sure students' voices are heard. I realized that several people have ideas that they want to voice but they may go unnoticed therefore I want to create a system where students could voice those opinions easily. One idea I have is to place a box near the front desk where students can place pieces of paper inside and each week the student government could go through it and debrief concerns or opinions BCC students have. Another goal I had was creating more events during which students network and connect: each month students with different majors could showcase their projects and skills. For example, computer science students could showcase their projects and receive feedback/ideas from other students. Or business students could create a market where they sell items which helps develop their social skills and allows them to apply their knowledge.

I would appreciate it if the student body voted for me because I will dedicate time, patience, and effort to my role, I'm open to any concerns and ideas, I'm committed to creating a more inclusive and engaging environment for everyone, and have lots of experience working alongside others (due to being club officer, Student Advocacy Committee member, teacher assistant). Thank you!



Cheng Yeh (Yale) Tsai

I'm running for senator because I want to make a real difference for our school and its students. With my strong organizational skills and dedication, I'm ready to take on new challenges and serve on the student council. My goal is to improve the learning experience and environment for everyone here. Additionally, I want to challenge myself by taking on tasks I haven't done before and strive to do them to the best of my ability. After nearly a year at this school, I've gained valuable insights into how things work. I know where we can do better and make things more convenient. Trust me—I've been in your shoes and understand what we need to improve. By voting for me, you're choosing someone who truly understands the student experience and is committed to making positive changes. Together, let's work towards a better future for our school community.

Student Trustees

Natasha Masand (BCC)

Hello Everyone!

My name is Natasha Masand, I'm a full-time student at Berkeley City College pursuing the role of Student Trustee in this 2024-25 student government election. It would be a privilege to represent the perspective of Alameda College, Laney College, Berkeley City College, and Merritt College students to the Board of Peralta.

My current campus positions as a Student Assistant in the Career & Transfer Center, Co-President of The Economics (TTA) Club, and President of Sustainable Business Club, allow me to interact with students every day. As a Student Assistant, I regularly converse with students while advising them on transfer options, applying to jobs, connecting them with support programs, and more. These encounters have made me knowledgeable on current student opinions and concerns that I intend to present in District Board meetings. Additionally, in my role as President of Sustainable Business and TTA clubs, I've worked collaboratively to plan events and hold meetings to strengthen the vibrancy of student life on campus. From this, I've learned how to navigate school policies to benefit students. My combined experience as a Student Assistant and Club Officer have prepared me to accurately speak on student values and frontline change on campus.

As a Student Trustee, I plan for my involvement on campus to continue and adjust according to the needs of the student body I represent. Holding office hours and being available through email are just a few of the ways I intend to establish a simple channel of communication between myself and students. I will always be willing to meet with you to discuss your ideas and am looking forward to the change we can make together.



Thank you :)

Sophia Parmigiani (BCC)

Hello everyone! My name is Sophia Parmigiani, and I'm running for Student Trustee! As your representative on the Peralta District School Board, I will be a vocal advocate for your needs as a fellow student, ensuring that our student body's most critical interests and pressing concerns are addressed at council meetings. If elected, my primary focus will be:

1. Transparent communication with students by advocating on your behalf.
2. Enhancing accessibility to resources
3. Cultivating a supportive learning environment where we can flourish together.

Above all, I believe that awareness and knowledge of the available resources within our community are key to our collective success. I desire to hear your thoughts, take in and share information from the board meetings, and bring opportunities and ideas back to you. Additionally, I will work to strengthen the systems through which these resources are communicated. My priority will be given to maintaining and improving affordability and accessibility on our campus. Presently, I serve as Vice President of BCC's Women's Leadership Club, where we provide resources to empower women through initiatives such as career panels, workshops, and presentations. For instance, I collaborated with the BART Chief Communications Director last semester to host a presentation and discussion on combating sexual harassment on public transport. I also hold a position on the student government ASBCC board and strive to learn more about the school systems to better serve the community. Lastly, I aim to create an inviting learning environment with attractive spaces where you can readily receive support within your classes. Let's build a stronger community by uplifting our student voice! Feel free to approach me with your concerns or ideas! Vote Sophia for Student Trustee! Thank you for your support.

