

## Candidate for SGA President 2020-2021

**JING WANG**

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### **How did you become interested in running for office?**

I have been studying at LaGuardia for more than one year now and have experience with many different departments. I spend almost all of my time at school and have explored the whole campus. During this time I have found that there are some problems between the school and the students. This problem prevent the school to forward and make student losing interest to react with school, but I believe that these problems can be solved, and I believe that I am the person that can solve these problems.

### **What are some of the principles that guide you as a leader?**

I believe the students have a responsibility to study hard, respect teachers, and increase the school's reputation in the CUNY system. When I am studying at school, I use critical thinking to accomplish my goals. I know that there must be a balance of rights and duty between students and school. I am engaged in building a harmonious community at school. I have a strong desire to make LaGuardia a better place for students, faculty, and staff.

### **If elected, what is one issue that is important to students and how do you plan to address it in your role?**

The most important issue for students at this time is that some of the faculty and staff do not understand that their entire job at LaGuardia is to assist the students in getting an education. The function of school is to provide a good environment for student's education. Without the students and their tuition, the faculty and staff would not even have a job. I believe that some faculty and staff need to be retrained on how they can best assist the students of LaGuardia. Meanwhile, the student need to study hard to

respond to the school. The school will be a harmonious community. If elected, I would like to encourage the students to get more involved with how this college is run. I promise to help bring their concerns forward, and try to bring about positive change.

**Why should a student vote for you to represent them?**

Students should vote for me because I will do my best to stand in their role. I will help the administration understand that they exist in order to serve the students of LaGuardia. The administration has a duty to the students. The students have a responsibility to study hard and increase the reputation of LaGuardia.

## **Candidate for SGA President 2020-20201**

***MARY RODRIGUEZ***

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### **How did you become interested in running for office?**

While following many students and LaGuardia committees it was hard not to notice the lack of student communication to teachers making this online transition. Nevertheless, the idea came upon me, inequity and the fear of the unfamiliar is a result of many students either failing because they don't communicate or are unable to communicate with the teacher. One of the most important things a student needs to get through college is communication, therefore the lack thereof triggered me into applying for this position.

### **What are some of the principles that guide you as a leader?**

Self-awareness is one of many guiding principles in my leadership skills. The ability to be honest with oneself, about one's strengths and one's weaknesses, is extremely important. Also being an active listener to other concerns without the influence of one's own beliefs but rather the well being of humankind is another leadership principle. Last but definitely not least and both go hand in hand, is the ability to stay motivated and productive. A busy body is a busy mind. Also the ability to communicate efficiently, keeping an open mind on all suggestions nevertheless being available for questions pertaining to many responsibilities.

**If elected, what is one issue that is important to students and how do you plan to address it in your role?**

No communication or miscommunication is a big issue that concerns many of my classmates. Professors or even online forms can either be miscommunicated or completely out of communication with students outside of class. Working with the entire SGA committee, we can work towards this gap of inequity and communication to be closed. Reaching out to students in need, students who don't speak English, students with disabilities. Everyone deserves a voice moreover a chance to pass. How can one pass if the assignment is not understood? Or an email is not received. Surveys need to be given out to all students as well, so this gap can be understood and worked on.

### **Why should a student vote for you to represent them?**

A philosopher by the name of James Thumber once stated: "It is better to know some of the questions than all of the answers." One cannot simply know everything and simply fix all problems, but it is still worth a try to fix it. But most importantly, how can we know the answer to anything if a question is not asked. I plan to listen to as many questions and concerns and will do everything I can to make sure as many voices of the students of LaGuardia are heard and as many questions answered. The ultimate goal is to be an active listener to questions and concerns to all students of LaGuardia and answering them while updating as many policies as we can. Doing so by giving out surveys, and coordinating events, and bettering our communication system between students, faculty/professors. Better communication between students and professors can result in a better grade and overall better experience. Better relationships are formed, students can.

## Candidate for SGA Vice President 2020-2021

**JENNY ZHANG**

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### **How did you become interested in running for office?**

To make changes to the school that I would like to see and what I believe other students want to see.

### **What are some of the principles that guide you as a leader?**

It's a very cliché saying, but I always try to follow the rule, "treat people the way you want to be treated." People in LaGuardia have widely different backgrounds, and understanding them has helped me make many friends.

### **If elected, what is one issue that is important to students and how do you plan to address it in your role?**

If I were to be elected, one issue I plan on increasing is student involvement. Participation in student club organizations will help students develop new skills and create a comfortable learning environment. One of the major barriers is that many students find it difficult to fit their schedule around club hours. Therefore I would like to minimize those barriers, and make clubs more widely accessible.

### **Why should a student vote for you to represent them?**

I used to be the art club's treasurer of my high school, so I'm a strong mix of business savvy and artistic. I think I would make a great contribution not only to efficiency but also to creativity.

## Candidate for SGA Vice President 2020-2021

**CHRISTIE LAURENT**

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### **How did you become interested in running for office?**

I became interested in running for office after having a conversation with a student in The Grace Leadership program in the College, and she encouraged me to run for office because she was part of the SGA. She described the function of SGA to the school and I realized that it's important for me to help my college, because my college helps me. I want to give back my talent, and effort to the community that helps me.

### **What are some of the principles that guide you as a leader ?**

Some principles that guides me as a leader are: My organization skills, I generally organize everything that I have and plan to keep it that way as much as I can. Time management, to me Punctuality is extremely important and accomplishing goals on time is essential. I successfully manage work time and school time. Problem solving, I take time understanding goals and general purpose and do what I can to achieve them. And most of all my Planning abilities, I always plan projects, write them and prioritize what is important.

### **If elected, what is one issue that is important to students and how do you plan to address it in your role?**

One issue that is important to students is resources in terms of support. There are a lot of support programs and events in the college, however students are not fully aware of that. The programs are there, but students don't know about them. One way I plan to address it as Vice President is to motivate the team talking about the Student

Government Association to go out more, let the students know about us as well as other support systems on campus, planning activities that are enjoyable to everyone and also educational. Putting more posters/flyers on campus, more videos of everything that students can find on campus on every social account that the college has, and demonstrate all the benefits of joining, participating and being active on campus.

**Why should a student vote for you to represent them?**

Students should vote for me to present them because I am caring, I am understanding, I will do anything to make their college experiences be the best experience and respond to their needs accordingly. They should vote for me to represent them also because of my previous experiences as student government from my previous schools. I have been responsible for many activities that have to do involving the community, representing the community and creating activities that help the community to stick together for over three years now, I have experience in what I am running for, therefore I will be a great fit for them and I will represent them properly. With the experiences that I have, the passion that I have to help people, and create a productive, and creative environment on campus will make me a good fit for them and able to represent them.

## **Candidate for SGA Secretary 2020-20201**

***TSERING LAMA***

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### **How did you become interested in running for office?**

I became interested in running for the Office because I want to be the voice of all the students and make sure that our collective concerns are being heard and looked into by the La Guardia. I also wanted to get more engaged in the Campus Community and really actively contribute for the community as much as I can.

### **What are some of the principles that guide you as a leader?**

Some principles that guide me as a leader are optimism, truthfulness and a strong sense of integrity. I believe in transparency and the ability to tell those I lead the truth and nothing but truth. Anything otherwise would be a deceit in my opinion. Having said that, I am also a very optimistic person, which helps me to encourage other people around me to be positive and hopeful even when times are tough. And lastly, having a strong sense of integrity is really important for me especially as a leader because in its absence you simply will not be able to make wise and just decisions.

### **If elected, what is one issue that is important to students and how do you plan to address it in your role?**

If elected, an important issue that I would like to address is that I think just like technology rentals, the College should provide bike rentals as well, as a healthier option for keeping the College students fit and healthy. Sometimes between the classes, we have enormous breaks or are just exhausted with studying for long hours. At such times, getting a bike ride around the campus will be a healthy and refreshing thing to do. Not just that, the bikes could also be used for their commute from home to School instead of trains, as a way of getting them more active and healthy. If I become a Secretary, I would definitely bring this up in one of the meetings.

### **Why should a student vote for you to represent them?**

A student should vote for me to represent them because they can count on me. Any one of the student's problem is not just his or hers but all of ours. We are all in the same journey of our life of learning, making mistakes and improving and becoming better, so if anybody has an issue, it should concern each and every one of us as long as we are LaGuardians. I would make sure that I will do everything in my ability to make LaGuardia a happy, memorable and worthy experience of our life. So, they should definitely vote for me for these reasons.



## **Candidate for SGA Event and Program Coordinator 2020-2021**

***DOUGLAS WILBURN***

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### **How did you become interested in running for office?**

After receiving the invite and some careful consideration I decided that I can make a difference if I build on my leadership skills to improve the future.

### **What are some of the principles that guide you as a leader?**

My decisions will be based and facts from data provided. I will apply the conclusion my decisions to be beneficial for everyone concerned.

### **If elected, what is one issue that is important to students and how do you plan to address it in your role?**

Right now what's important is that students remain engaged in their studies with distant learning even though it does not require on campus learning. It is just as beneficial, if not more, to stay productive and comfortable with technology when things become unusual.

### **Why should a student vote for you to represent them?**

I am a student for life and a representative for all that require it. I will be the advocate for ALL students that need someone on their side.

## **Candidate for SGA Treasurer 2020-2021**

***CARMEN ESCUDERO***

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### **How did you become interested in running for office?**

My interest in running for office showed up since the moment I enrolled as a LaGuardia student. To add on I want to be part of a community that shares one goal: being the voice of the school and its students. Besides, I want to be involved with the SGA network, exceed my vision, engage and interact with other students, and help each other throughout our careers.

### **What are some of the principles that guide you as a leader?**

A principle that guides me as a leader would be my honesty and keeping things simple. No matter what stressful situation a group of people are in I believe if you are honest and open they will believe in you. To add on, if you keep it simple this avoids stress as everyone around you will feel more comfortable.

### **If elected, what is one issue that is important to students and how do you plan to address it in your role?**

Since I am interested in the role of SGA Treasurer, one important issue I would address is making sure the money we receive is well budgeted; so the students are able to partake in school activities. Being meticulous would allow me to make sure every single cent is spent right. This would grant the students to see that the money is being spent on activities for them.

### **Why should a student vote for you to represent them?**

Being able to represent my fellow students would allow me to be the voice for those who can't say what is on their minds, due to having other priorities. I would also be dedicated to making sure the money that is received is spent on activities they are interested in and on the things they want to see around the campus.

**Candidate for SGA Academic Representative 2020-2021 –  
Liberal Arts and English**

**ANNETTE CRUZ GONZALEZ**

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**How did you become interested in running for office?**

When I started my first year at LaGuardia, I knew I wanted to be an active and engaged student, taking advantage of all campus resources. More so, I knew I wanted to lead to some capacity but not clear on what my options would be. Upon receiving SGA invite to participate, immediately, I thought I'd be able to apply all my leadership, communication and interpersonal skills to use while further developing aforementioned skills. LaGuardia has made such a positive impact on my life thus far. I'd like to deepen that experience with being part of the Student Government Association.

**What are some of the principles that guide you as a leader?**

Integrity, excellence, adaptability and community. In my personal and professional life, I do my best to live to these core values.

**If elected, what is one issue that is important to students and how do you plan to address it in your role?**

My time at LaGuardia is important to me, I want to get the full college experience while I'm attending. As a mother my time is even more valuable. While on campus my breaks were extensive (2-3 hrs) in between classes. I knew there were events but because they weren't properly communicated I wasn't able to attend, missing out on an experience and possibly professional relationships. In addition, most times we don't have professional events during the day (or night for night students) between classes. Events that could bring students face to face with industry experts and leaders to deepen the knowledge we are learning in the classroom. In my role, I'd use my interpersonal skills to work with professors and dept. chairs to strategize and create a plan on how to bring more to the students.

**Why should a student vote for you to represent them?**

I'm one of them, I know my time is valuable, I have a desire to connect and build my network. I know that relationships with peers, faculty and industry leaders will put me in a position that the classroom alone won't be able to do for me. I also know that when I was at work before I signed into school it was seeing my friends at college events that sold me on attending. Knowing that if I wanted to get up close with those leaders it would have the best chance of doing that in an academic setting. I know if I feel this way so do other students. I want to be able to bring quality events to LaGuardia. I want all students to have access to those events.

## Candidate for SGA Academic Representative 2020-2021 – Humanities

***RICHARD RENDON***

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### **How did you become interested in running for office?**

I decided to run for office because I know I can make a difference. To serve my fellow LaGuardians would be an honor and a pleasure. To have a position in student government that would enable me to reach out to people and help in anyway is a fulfillment of the values that I have learned in LaGuardia Community College.

### **What are some of the principles that guide you as a leader?**

The top principle that guides me as a leader is my vision for my fellow LaGuardians. I want them to realize their potentials in the craft that they are pursuing or hobbies that they love doing. Another guiding principle is setting an example to my fellow students. To be an example is not pressuring people to be like you but rather inspiring people to be responsible and studious.

### **If elected, what is one issue that is important to students and how do you plan to address it in your role?**

One issue that I would address when elected is the issue of talent development. I would initiate talent development programs that would recognize the potential of every student in the career they wanted to pursue.

### **Why should a student vote for you to represent them?**

A student will vote for me because they know I'm their voice in student government and college administration.

## SGA Parliamentarian 2020-2021

**ALEKSANDR DAVYDOV**

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### **How did you become interested in running for office?**

Before coming to LaGuardia Community College, I ran a start-up with two rounds of Venture Capital Funding. I wanted to better myself and do more to give back. Now; back in school, I would like to work with my peers to give back to the students of LaGuardia Community College to make it a better place for everyone.

### **What are some of the principles that guide you as a leader?**

Ways taking the initiative to help those around me. In any case I am in, people look to me to see how we will handle the situation? or how will we overcome this obstacle together? I believe in working with those around me and bringing out their best qualities. I believe in getting it done as opposed to making excuses.

### **If elected, what is one issue that is important to students and how do you plan to address it in your role?**

Campus life would be what I would want to be involved in to help other students get engaged. My first semester; I realized that unless I made the initiative, most other students were scared to speak to others. I will implement techniques to help open students up and get them engaged. Laguardia Community College has a beautiful facility, and if the students are already in school they can stay on campus for other activities as long as they 1. know about them and 2. Aren't scared to go to them.

### **Why should a student vote for you to represent them?**

It's simple, I have the experience needed to help move things forward. I am back educating myself after a career in Finance, wanting to give back. My background has given me the tools to organize, effectively lead, and find a solution to any problem. If you ask anyone who knows me, the first thing they'll tell you is I am here to help.

## Candidate for SGA Academic Representative 2020-2021 – STEM

*Fehim Hoti*

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### **How did you become interested in running for office?**

My interest in running for office was in me since I initially started my first day of classes at LaGuardia. During the first semester, as an international student, I was this kind of person where I checked lots of places and I went to different rooms of LaGuardia to check for opportunities, events, activities, and different groups. Student Government Association was the one that attracted me the most because this association is made up of people who share one goal: being the voice for the unheard. As an international student, that caught my interest because I feel that there are lots of students who need a voice for their rights.

### **What are some of the principles that guide you as a leader?**

I am this kind of person that when taken responsibility in a specific duty, I try with all my heart and my being to finish it with efficiency and simplicity, and also not leaving aside the teammates and the teamwork while working in a project or work because that is what makes a group and the work great. These principles of taking full responsibility and making sure to not leaving aside anyone and making sure that there is equity for everyone are some of the principles that guide me as a leader.

### **If elected, what is one issue that is important to students and how do you plan to address it in your role?**

If elected, an issue that is important to students and that is of great importance to be addressed is the issue of international and nonresidential students. I believe that there are lots of international and nonresidential students that are not being informed and are not being presented the same opportunities with the residents of New York. There are plenty of opportunities in STEM majors that international and nonresidential students are not aware of

because of the lack of communication and engagement with these students. As a STEM Academic Representative, I plan to address this by presenting them these opportunities and by being their voice and share all the information and the opportunities that I have to every STEM major student regardless of status.

**Why should a student vote for you to represent them?**

I believe that students should vote for me to represent the whole student body because I am a type of a person that when seen injustice and inequity, I always be the first one to raise the voice against any injustice done to students. I try to be fair, honest, and direct with every student and I try to help all of them regardless of status, background, and race because I believe that we all are humans and we all share the same goal of helping each other grow and prosper.

## **Candidate for Faculty Student Disciplinary Committee (FSDC) 2020-2021**

***Shanae Williams***

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### **How did you become interested in running for office?**

The reason why I want to run for office is based on my previous experience. When I attend New York Institution of Technology I held the position of membership and engagement office for my sorority chapter Epsilon Iota. I got elected during my first year within becoming a sister of my chapter. I didn't get the chance to hold the position for long. At the beginning of the new school year I had to drop out because of financial problems. Since enrolling into LaGuardia Community College; I've wanted to find a way that I could play a part in the school. Finding a way that I could help others and maybe have them help me along the way. Also during my time at the NYIT; I wrote for the school newspaper. Doing that time it allowed me the opportunity to hear what other students wanted from their school and community. To be apart of a system that would allow student to have a voice and have others hear them was amazing. I believe that running for office will also help me with my leadership and communication skills

### **What are some of the principles that guide you as a leader?**

What guides me as a leader is to always treat people as I want them to treat me. Going based off my time as a supervisor at a retail store; it has showed that in order to lead others, you need to be able to do as well. To do the work that you ask of others many find hard to do. To be able to put yourself in others shoes at any giving moment. Be mindful of others feelings even when you don't want to. I know that I don't know everything and this is why I'm willing to learn from others. Also, my number one principle is to never be afraid to ask for help.

### **If elected, what is one issue that is important to students and how do you plan to address it in your role?**

I believe that one issue that is important to students is finance. In these times making sure that one has enough funds to get by is hard. Making sure that they can pay for school, textbooks, transportation, etc. Just everyday life essentials are becoming harder and harder to achieve. What I would do is to find ways to help students out anyway that I can. Either, that's by helping to point people in the direction of job offers or to an organization that is willing to provide a service. Anyway that I can help, I will find it.

### **Why should a student vote for you to represent them?**

I believe that a student should vote for me because when I put my heart into something; I will never give up. It took me 8 years to get back in school and I never through about not going back. I worked hard to find my way back in. I will go the extra mile to help every student that I can to reach for what they're looking for. I'm a fighter for others and I will not stop until I helped everyone. I've been in the same shoes of a student who's fresh out of high school trying to find their voice. I'm that student trying to find their way back into a system that has changed a lot. I'm going to be that person you can rely and that you can go to for anything.