

Candidates for SGA President

JoongWook (Ryan) Jhin

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How did you become interested in running for office?

Since the beginning of the first semester at this college, I have wanted to become a member of SGA because I can help students directly beyond my power. I love to help students within my ability, but this President role is a really honoring opportunity to contribute my investigative and result-driven characteristics beyond my capacity with other SGA members to help students.

I have a passion for the community because I go to volunteer every Saturday outside of campus as a member of New York Cares, a non-profit organization. And I have many leadership experiences leading teammates and teaching trainees as a former marine special force recon, swimming instructor, and National Academy Sports Medicine trainer.

I was born in South Korea. But regardless of my nationality, I am one of you. We all came to this college to dream beyond what we already have. We all came here with an audacious goal that we must accomplish in our generation. We all came from a minority background with a common goal and dream of upward economic mobility. Let me clear the path we will walk through first.

Even though LaGuardia community college ranked five among two-year colleges in economic mobility and students are 45% more likely to transfer to a 4-year university than community college students nationally, this is not what we felt. This is not enough, although it's a really proud achievement. We need to do more.

My goal for this college as a President is clear. Making our college culture more professional and having easy access to resources. To do that, I hope our college ranks three among two-year community colleges in economic mobility nationally, and students have over 70% probability of transferring to a 4-year university. I hope LaGuardia becomes the top transfer college in New York City. This is my goal.

Would you help me to make our college more prestigious for your dreams?

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

Community first to serve.

In other words, always team first. I used to talk about this principle when I was a marine. One individual cannot dare accomplish anything by himself. I always needed a team. And thankfully, I also had an opportunity to study with you here because of support from my family. I'm really grateful every day.

Responsibility is always on me.

"The buck stops here." President Truman always put this phrase on his desk while working in his oval office. A leader should be the last person who takes all teammates' mistakes because it could have been done differently if the leader had known the risk in advance or ordered differently. It is always the leader's fault.

I used to blame myself when the result came out different than I thought. And whenever I tried to find problems in myself, the solution always came out. That's how I survived a difficult drill with my teammates in the military and how I made my trainee lose weight 20 pounds within three months.

Patience, kindness with empathy, and courtesy.

These three virtues are my life principles whether I am a leader. I always remember these virtues as principles when I meet people because these define human beings. I always try to listen first with patience when I meet people with unpolite manners and emotions because that's not their fault. But by listening to their issues, they can have a chance to find problems. And that is the moment I can suggest my solution. I give my answers straightforwardly but with kindness in courtesy. I have never had a case where I couldn't solve an issue with these soft principles.

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

As I mentioned above, my goal is to make our college more professional and have easy access to resources.

But to do that, student engagement and involvement are the top priority for both school and students. However, students won't participate when we scream "engagement." We need a really simple access method to resources and great quality of resources. For example, I will focus on making quality transfer guidelines in HSAC and regularly hold career seminars for all students. If the quality of the seminar is good, more students will participate. And I'm going to emphasize how helping the school itself helps students' careers and life.

Fostering and tightening the community, then, is my one important issue. I will gather professional resources for transfer or career after graduation to upward economic mobility and hold regular meetings.

And I'm going to make a professional LaGuardia Alumni network group, whether it is an offline or online community on LinkedIn. Especially, LaGuardia has no active alumni group right now on LinkedIn, and we need a really active group that our successful alumni can come to hold seminars regularly for students. And sometimes, I will invite top Ivy league school students who can really give us career or transfer advice.

Fixing small issues is also important. Many students know some vending machines in our buildings don't work even though they look normal. Some machines never accept Apple pay or card even though they have a sign for them. I'm going to talk with the vending machine supplier and the school to fix it. Too tiny desks and chairs are also problems. They are integrated into one set, so it's very inconvenient. We need to fix it to have a quality class while seating comfortably.

Why should a student vote for you to represent them?

If you want to experience the fastest change during your college life, I'm here to help you. It doesn't matter if we are Hispanic, Black, White, and Asian. We all came from minority groups, and we have a common goal with audacious dreams that our future generations will be better. I am one of you. Let me help our college be more prestigious and fun with your help so that we all fulfill our life goals during this college. Let's vote.

Lucia Chavira

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How did you become interested in running for office?

On the first day of enrolling at LaGuardia this Fall. I became interested in Student Government. The position of event and program coordinator has always been an integral part of my identity. Throughout junior high and high school, I served as a member of the student government. In this role, I oversaw many projects dealing with increasing school spirit through assembly activities. In retrospect, it is important to demonstrate a proactive leadership style as well as to listen to the needs of the

students. Taking on the task of running for office is both an energetic and enjoyable way to improve the self. Being a part of LaGuardia's Student Government will not only allow me to grow, but it will promote change. In running for the position of Events and Program Coordinator, I hope to bring attention to and encourage student involvement in programs that have the objective of improving our campus and its surrounding environment.

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

A good set of values and principles are essential for the composition of becoming a great leader! The principles of courage, empathy, effective communication and a desire for personal growth have provided me with the ability to thrive in a complex and challenging world. As a student, I long to be a voice for change through student government. The ability to use courage and empathy to implement change is vital for effective communication and personal growth. My experience as a leader in my high school's student government led me to be proactive and taught me how to effectively communicate with my peers. Taking the time to listen to and acknowledge student concerns will facilitate proactive change. An important part of the student government's function is to proactively identify and prevent potential problems. Due to my unique position in my family as an identical twin and as a sister of four, I am able to recognize and be proactive at problem-solving. My role as a sister of four, and more importantly as an identical twin, has enabled me to recognize and respect a diverse range of challenges.

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

School spirit at LaGuardia is a top concern for students today. Several students have shared concerns regarding the lack of school spirit throughout the campus. Currently, there is little to no school spirit - the hallways at LaGuardia are devoid of energy, and feel as if we are all commuter students without any connection to campus. Increasing school spirit will catapult an increase in grades and attendance. Increasing student activities through events and interactive programs will in fact reduce the dropout rate. As an Event and Program Coordinator, I aim to create events that will bring students closer together, and thus foster a greater school spirit.

Why should a student vote for you to represent them?

A vote for me is a vote for community, self belonging, and school spirit.

Students who exhibit school spirit, go beyond supporting their school. They do better academically, are more socially and civically engaged, and are therefore generally happier. The task of representing a student body without a sense of campus will pose challenges, but it is these very challenges that I am honored to undertake.

Candidates for SGA Vice President

John Bahia

john.bahia@live.lagcc.cuny.edu

How did you become interested in running for office?

What interested me in running for office? I want to get involved in my school affairs and advocate the voice of my peers at LaGuardia Community College. I am very interested and willing to contribute my time and effort to my college's community so that we can instill better leadership that will represent the student body more accurately and demand better learning conditions for all students that attend LaGuardia Community College.

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

I have the patience in my fellow students and the compassion to relate with the general student population on a personal level. I completely understand what the average student is going through especially during these harsh moments, and I am willing enough to always have an open mind to listen to the concerns and best interests of the students of LaGuardia Community College.

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

There are many issues and things that we should work on as a collective union of students, especially for the people who get elected in the Student Government. When

I'm elected, I am going to help further expand the knowledge of all the great opportunities and resources that students can take advantage of here at LaGuardia Community College. I am going to do that through better community outreach, cooperating and working with faculty and staff and by always being present and active in the school community. We must let students know about the opportunities that are there for them, and that they can achieve a lot with what we have here.

Why should a student vote for you to represent them?

My peers should vote for me because I believe that I am one of the most caring, dedicated, and willing to make LaGuardia Community College a better place to learn and get an education with dignity and respect. I have the experience and the right intentions to push for a better LaGuardia for all students. I will never stop fighting for my schoolmates, and I will listen to them. I will make a guarantee that, in the responsibility that will be instilled upon me, we will have a better LaGuardia than in the past years. My best interests in this race are of my peers and all their dreams and aspirations that they brought the first time they walked in to get a quality college education.

Candidates for SGA Event & Program Coordinator

Syed Washeed

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How did you become interested in running for office?

I'm very interested in running for office because I've always been very passionate about helping others, solving problems and managing my own duties and responsibilities. I achieve a very unique sense of accomplishment and contentment whenever I have been able to successfully help someone in need or have been able to find solutions to problems as they arose. I see this as the perfect opportunity to help the students, the college, and the other members of SGA and utilize my own leadership skills.

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

The principles that guide me as a leader are quite frankly, the principles that guide me as an elder brother, a son who must take responsibility for his family and to be a friend in need. Some of them are - Being a listener. Respecting everyone; Even the ones who may not agree with me. Self-awareness and consistently learning from mistakes. Seeking and taking responsibilities. Passion and Motivation.

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

I've come across many students who are interested in being involved in campus life whether it be through club activities, social events and the honors program but somehow found the process to be daunting and ended up never taking the initiative. I want to address the issue through making the information regarding all resources available to students simplified and providing guidance through events, since building a sense of community is very important among students.

Why should a student vote for you to represent them?

I always strive to be empathetic, helpful and a person who can provide guidance and take responsibility. As Ben Parker says, "With great power, comes great responsibility"; I may not have Spiderman abilities, but I am confident in the ones I have and have always managed to carry out the responsibilities bestowed upon me. Furthermore, the people who know me in my personal, social, student or career life describe me as a person who would always be available for anyone who might need help and someone who makes sure that none of his duties are left unattended.

Candidates for SGA Secretary

Afra Taher

How did you become interested in running for office?

My name is Afra Fariha Taher. I arrived in the United States in 2021 and began my undergraduate studies in the Fall semester of 2021. I've always wanted to participate in campus activities to serve the students and the community. I am currently pursuing computer science in LAGCC. My objective is to encourage females in STEM, as well as anybody who is afraid of studying technology and Science. The position for which I am running is an excellent opportunity to encourage women. We can host a variety of events to show the increasing tech sectors and the present expansion of career areas in the technology industry. We can encourage everyone, especially females, who are less likely than males to pursue STEM fields. Another reason for my interest in this role is to help those who are hesitant to express themselves in front of others to gain self-confidence. Many people want to say a lot but lack the courage to speak in front of a large group. I want my classmates, any new students, or anybody else to come to me and tell me about their concerns, and I will try to give them the greatest possible solution and build their confidence in doing or saying whatever they want. I will be honored if I get elected to run the office and get a chance to represent myself and work for this community.

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

A leader, in my opinion, should have a strong point of view and constantly believe that what is good for everyone is right. I've always had faith in myself. Before I do anything, I give it a lot of thought. I strive to respect everyone's viewpoint, and if I ever become a leader, I feel I will do what everyone agrees on. I've always completed tasks on time, and taking responsibility is one of the leadership principles that I follow. One of the key requirements for effective leadership is motivation. I enjoy motivating and encouraging others. Planning is another key concept of leadership. There should be planning before working in a group or for others. I've always followed a routine that allows me to work efficiently. Also, I feel that for a leader, scheduling is always the best option.

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

The position I am running for election is SGA Event and Program Coordinator. There will be different events that will be occurring in future. One of the most pressing concerns I feel the students have is a program or event that is in sync with the latest. According to today's students, they always want a program that isn't boring and that they can enjoy. Regarding my role If I am chosen for any program, I would want to arrange any event with my team based on the preferences of the students and how they would enjoy the event. Because, at the end of the day, when we design an event, it is always for the students, and it should be something that everyone enjoys. I will attempt to arrange everything in such a manner that everyone will appreciate and enjoy it, from the youngest to the oldest.

Why should a student vote for you to represent them?

I am a highly social person who is also extremely dedicated to my work. If students vote for me, I will do everything I can to assist them. I am a trustworthy individual that strives for perfection in all I do. As a result, students, team members, and seniors can count on me. I am a forward-thinking individual that believes in achieving self-sufficiency and a happy life by hard effort. Anyone who knows me well understands how attentively I work. I am a hard worker with a positive mindset. That's all I have to say about myself, and I'm crossing my fingers that I'll be chosen, but students should absolutely vote for the candidate they believe would be best for them.

Taranjit Singh

Candidates for SGA Treasure

Candidates for SGA Parliamentarian

Fairy A. Abreu de Jesus

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Candidate for SGA Academic Representative - Health Science

Sahar Kaafarani

SAHAR.KAAFARANI@LIVE.LAGCC.CUNY.EDU

Candidate for SGA Academic Representative - STEM

Marcus Ezekiel Brazal

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Candidate for SGA Academic Representative - Humanities

Shari Clark

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How did you become interested in running for office?

I feel like I love stepping outside the box a lot .I love to do it in my art mostly using a lot of colors.As even in my hairstyles I go from long braids or twists for natural hair low cutsI am very bold .I feel regardless of my struggles in life I want build leadership for the students to always thrive for what you love enjoy doing in life .The reason why I'm interested in joining because I think I can show my ambition to create for others to do what can bring the best out of you.

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

I think I'm ambitious and fearless. I love being creative and outgoing .

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

I think one issue that is important to students is their academic barriers .The way I would address it in my role I'd create a comfortable space to meet other students and make personal academic connections.A space where students can create that motivation to know that if you need help it's okay to ask for it .We are all a family in diverse college majors that no matter what we can do it .

Why should a student vote for you to represent them?

I think a student should vote for me because my academic drive is inspiring and uplifting .I came a long way from 5 years ago tackling remedial .In addition being dismiss from school managing to take a college prep to get back in school .My passion was always art and modeling and even I had personal bumps but only academically I push through it all .

Candidate for SGA Academic Representative - ELA

Sarmin Sultana

sarmin.sultana@live.lagcc.cuny.edu

How did you become interested in running for office?

I heard about that by a college email after reading that I became interested.

FSDC

Jewel Prescott

Jewel.prescott@live.lagcc.cuny.edu

How did you become interested in running for office?

I've always loved to help my fellow classmates even though the pandemic was remotely, it felt really great to do so. When I saw that elections were coming up again, I was eager to apply to help out not only my fellow classmates but others who may need my assistance in anything and everything. A really rewarding experience awaits me.

Always wanted to give back in some way and knowing that there is an opportunity to do so through student government made me really excited to run.

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

To always listen first before analyzing a situation to then find a solution, be true to yourself and never judge someone based on fictionalized thoughts/ideas.

Never judge a book by its cover, be true to yourself and be a great listener.

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

Getting more classes available to students at the school so they don't lose interest in lagcc. A Lot of people get deterred from this and want to either transfer or not finish at all. If we can assess the situation or even give them more options, then the enrollment rate and graduate rate would pick back up again.

To help students be more aware of how to navigate the system. Whether it's through getting permits to take classes throughout the CUNY system while here at lagcc to simply setting up meetings with their professors without fear.

Why should a student vote for you to represent them?

I am a seasoned student. I've come a long way in CUNY and knowing how to navigate through life and in school can definitely help those who may need that knowledge and skills to help them succeed. Not only here at LAGCC but life overall.

I am a seasoned student. I've come a long way and am still in the process of learning new things. With all the knowledge I've obtained over the years in CUNY and travels, I know I can help students in a variety of ways; confidence in being a lagcc student, life lessons as a student and knowing that we're all in this together, no one's bigger than the other...

Ella Gommun

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How did you become interested in running for office?

Greetings everyone, as I am preparing myself to become a business leader I am trying to open myself to decisions making and interacting with public, I am running for office to give myself an opportunity to be more prepared to be a good leader since I will have to work closely with other office members in solving the challenges we will have to face during our mandate.

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

I believe good listening is a must for good leadership.also, I as a leader will value diversity and self respect and commitment to hard work.

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

I believe every student wants a safe and clean study center.also not having to choose between attending school or working to pay your every bills is very important to me as student ,if I am elected, I will join the fight to make free tuition a reality for students who need it.also,since my concerns may not be the concern of every students and or the most important issues others have regarding their academic life, we will create a

platform where each of us will feel free to engage and communicate their needs and concern in a way that we can find solutions together for all.

Why should a student vote for you to represent them?

Voting for me will not be the best decision you ever made since I believe you already made a lot of great decisions so far. However if you vote for me I will do all my best to make the difference. I am a smart person and a compassionate person. I had a lot of downtime in my life but I never give up. I am ready to learn with you and ready to do what it takes to be a good leader. You vote for me or not, always remember that only you can do what will make you succeed, don't let difficulties stop you, go for your dreams and always dream big . Thank you.

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JoongWook (Ryan) Jhin

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How did you become interested in running for office?

As an aspiring accounting student, I recognize the role of Treasurer fits perfectly for me. My goal is to become the best auditor of one of the Big 4 accounting firms in the city. I dream of normalizing personal finance in elementary school in South Korea through this goal. I want to contribute my finance and technical skills to our LaGuardia students. This role will be my first step to getting to my next destination.

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

The buck stops here. A leader takes responsibility when nobody takes or finishes it. Whenever I led teams or trainees when I was a special marine force recon, swimming instructor, and personal trainer, I always took responsibility for the results and my members' mistakes. Only in that way could my team try again by themselves and move forward. I have trained myself to implement that principle in life. It has made me always set the complete goal, not half of it with compromising. Dare to do more. A leader shows grace under pressure.

The man who dares to do a little more than his thought always brings more results for the majority. The leader should show courage to help others regardless of his condition. And this principle suits perfectly for me because I always think about the community first instead of thinking only of my role. After all, serving the community benefits me. Martin Luther King once said, ""You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love."" Let me serve you with my courage and power of execution. Courage makes grace under pressure.

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

Transparency. Students want to know how their money is allocated. As a Treasurer, I want to make sure our budget, which consists of students' tuition, becomes transparent. I can do that efficiently with my technical and financial accounting skills. I believe this transparency in managing the college's finances leads to student engagement in various school events. Even though I have become a Treasurer, I am also one of the

SGA members. As an officer of student government members, I have a duty to encourage students to participate in our school's activities and events because students make a school. Of course, I'm fully aware of skepticism of participation in school. I am aware of it because I also felt the school did not really care for us. To increase the involvement of students, I will prioritize improving the quality of events. Participating in one hour's worth of school events should bring triple the reward of their initial thought. If the quality of the event improves with marketing quality, students notice the value and popularity. Let's create events that produce real value so that we all can engage and enjoy them!

Why should a student vote for you to represent them?

My life goal and career goal are perfectly aligned with this role. I will show you execution and leadership power with finance and technical skills. I have enormous confidence that I can boost our college budget's transparency, speed, and efficiency. In addition, I can lead students to engage in our college events by improving the quality, meaning, and value of our events with the president and other SGA members.

Dany Minaya

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How did you become interested in running for office?

I felt I could make a serious difference in helping student voices be known, and help facilitate a stronger community at LaGuardia. I want to do more to bring students together.

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

To be mindful that others have an experience as real and vivid as my own.

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

I'm sure this is an issue many students are talking about in their elections, but it's only because it's such a prominent issue here, which is the lack of any social community in Laguardia and wanting to improve upon that. I also plan on giving the students here resources to help in their transfer process and integrating those resources with new and improved ways for students to socialize.

Why should a student vote for you to represent them?

Because I care by default.