

Greetings Region II

My name is Emilio Caesar Salas and I'm running for the position of Regional Affairs Director for the SSCCC Region II. I am currently majoring in Administration of Justice, Political Science, and Communication at Folsom Lake College. I am a former foster youth and first-generation college student with these disadvantages. I have learned to uphold leadership skills and voice the opinions of others who are shut down by higher up positions or too afraid to say anything. I have been very active within my ASO by holding the position of Interim President, Vice President, Vice Commissioner, Resolutions Officer, and Senator. As well as the SSCCC Region II Regional Affairs Director. I have also lobbied for SB 291 a non tuition financial aid bill for students in need of financial assistance. The reason why I wanted this position is that there are a lot of things that still need to be done for the CCC system. Some of the things are basic needs, homeless, more mental health service for students, and granting full voting rights to student trustees. Those are just some of the things that I would like to continue being a part of and advocated more for. As for other priorities that I haven't listed yet as the RAD I would try my hardest to be a part of all other priorities as much as possible. Getting more information and answer to questions the delegates and students have and presenting it to my constituents. I recently ran for the Vice President of Communication during the SSCCC General Assembly. But unfortunately didn't get elected into office. But when that happened I took that and reached out to many colleges to find out what I could work on better for the students. The feedback was amazing and I learned things about myself that I didn't even notice. I have grown a lot within my first year in college. I believe that my work as a student leader is unfinished. I got offered an internship for the Disney College Program. I declined it because I wanted to continue being there for the students. One thing that I would like to work on within the region is getting the inactive colleges to come to delegate assembly as they must know what's going regional and statewide as it affects them also. I would do this by reaching out to the college President and advisor to know when their meetings occur and are there to see what the college's ASO is working on. I would do this by visiting each college within region II at least once or twice a semester. If the college doesn't have a delegate present at the time I visit the college I would inform the board what is going on with the SSCCC and highly suggest that they appoint a delegate so they always stay informed. I have a big passion for student advocacy and I think that any student idea big or student is important and should be heard. Thank you for reading my candidate statement.

1. After reviewing the job description for the position, what activities and special skills make you qualified, and why are you running for this position?

From reading the job description of the Regional Affairs Director I would say that I'm well qualified. As I was the RAD for the Region for the 2020-2021 term for 3 months. After having to resign for personal reasons. I made individual meetings with the delegates and had my VC and LAD participate so that we could help them in any way starting their term as a representative for their college. Within the SSCCC I help form the delegate onboarding webinar statewide with the collaboration of interim VPRA Azim and RAD XI Gardner. This webinar was to help all ten region delegates get a better understanding as well as how to be effective within the role. I also held executive region meetings and delegate assemblies. Where I made and sent out the agenda with the help of my fellow board members. The reason why I am running for this position is because in my last term life happened and I wasn't able to execute the goals I had planned out for the region. I feel that there is still more that I can do to help voice the concerns of the students. I want to help break the barrier between students and government officials making decisions that will affect us within the CCC system. As we have a large population then both the UC and CSU system combined and we need to be knowledgeable for all the barriers we face both documented and undocumented. Even though there been progress there always things that need to be fix

2. Please briefly discuss the core commitments of the Vision for Success and your understanding of diversity, equity, and inclusion.

The core commitments of the Vision for Success are to always make sure that whatever you're making a decision or constructing something that the student perspective always comes first. That we are focusing on what the end goal is for the students, what they want out of it and how we will both nurture and execute them. As well as most importantly supporting our fellow students in the best possible way. Being the start to take actions creates backup plans for when things don't work out properly. Within this day in age diversity equity and inclusion is an important key factor not just locally statewide or nationally but worldwide there need to be systems in places to make sure that there equal playing field for everyone and many supports for individuals that are struggling to be able to achieve that success.

3. What issue(s) in higher education are you most dedicated to addressing and why?

One of the biggest issues is foster youth as little as 7% of California foster youth before the age of 26 will receive a bachelor degree. Which is very alarming. There needs to be more things in place to better support these students transitioning from being awarded the state to becoming independent and becoming successful. Another one providing financial aid opportunities to undocumented students so there not wondering how they are going to afford higher education and supporting themselves or families. These two and many others are important to be because I've dealt with it first hand or heard from friends from stories told and the struggles they have faced

Additional Questions for Regional Affairs Director and Legislative Affairs Director. A. What makes you best suited to serve as a voting member on the SSCCC Board of Directors?

What makes me suited for being a voting member for the Board of Directors is that I have participated previously as a member. I have looked over materials, asked questions and been able to have discussions within the meeting. As well as bring back everything that takes place to the region and keep them informed.