



NBCGSS General Election Candidates' Biography / Statement of Interest – March 2024

CANDIDATE 1 - CHAIRPERSON - Behrouz (Bruce) Danesh

Behrouz Danesh, known to many as Bruce, is a dedicated advocate for community development and social change. With a passion for service and a commitment to making a difference, Bruce has established himself as a prominent leader both on and off the campus of the University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC).

Since arriving in Prince George in 2018, UNBC has been Bruce's home. Starting as an international student himself, he arrived knowing little about Prince George and the surrounding area. However, through his time at UNBC, Bruce has become intimately familiar with the campus, its resources, and the city of Prince George. Over the years, he has emerged as a key go-to person for anyone new in town seeking guidance, offering invaluable support and assistance to newcomers, especially his Persian community, navigating their way through the university and the community.

Related experiences:

- NUGSS Director at Large and Vice President: Advocated for student needs and worked to improve student life on campus.
- Served as the Founder and President of multiple Student clubs.
- Residence Assistant: Provided support and guidance to students living on campus, creating a welcoming and inclusive environment.
- EDI positions: Promoted equity, diversity, and inclusion initiatives to ensure all students feel respected and valued.
- Over The Edge (OTE) writer and newly elected as the Chair of the OTE Board: Used his platform to raise awareness about important issues affecting students and the community.

One of Bruce's most notable achievements is spearheading the creation of an off-campus housing guide for international students and non-locals. This comprehensive resource provides valuable information and support to newcomers to Prince George, helping them navigate the challenges of finding housing, transportation, and other essential services. Bruce is currently working on drafting the UNBC International Student Guide, hoping to collaborate with multiple UNBC departments to create a tailored document for graduate students who are new to Canada.

Beyond his involvement at UNBC, Bruce is deeply committed to serving the broader community. As the MS Ambassador of Prince George and founder of the UNBC Multiple Sclerosis Support Club, he has dedicated countless hours to raising awareness and providing support to individuals affected by multiple sclerosis through educational initiatives and community outreach efforts.

Bruce's recent initiative includes working on a mentorship program through the Iranian Student Association, facilitating the sharing of experiences between UNBC alumni, more experienced students, and new students in Prince George. He hopes to initiate a similar mentorship program at NBCGSS, providing job opportunities for students and fostering a supportive and inclusive community.

As I seek to serve as a board member, my passion for advocacy and commitment to making a difference drive my approach to leadership, which is rooted in the belief that everyone's experiences, feedback, and knowledge are valuable in enhancing the student life experience for graduate students. By actively listening to and collaborating with you, Grads students, I hope that our board aims to create an inclusive environment where all voices are heard, respected, and where solutions can be offered.



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CANDIDATE 2 - CHAIRPERSON - Chukwudumebi Dionne Isichei

My name is Dumebi Isichei. I'm thrilled and honoured to present my candidacy for the Chairperson position, and I can't wait to share why I'm the right fit for this role.

As a licensed lawyer, I've delved deep into researching gender and constitutional issues, and I've been a passionate advocate for causes close to my heart. These experiences have not only shaped my understanding of complex legal landscapes but also fueled my desire to create positive change in our community.

During my undergraduate days, I led societies and groups, immersing myself in the art of collaboration and leadership. This foundation was further strengthened by over 5 years of professional experience, where I had the privilege of leading a team of sales development representatives. Together, we tackled various projects and brainstormed innovative strategies that drove success within the organization.

One of the most enriching experiences in my career was working closely with a consultancy firm that partnered with renowned development organizations. Collaborating with USAID, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, AGRA, Oxfam, and Syngenta opened my eyes to the power of effective leadership and communication in driving impactful change.

What draws me to the NBCGSS is our shared commitment to supporting graduate students and fostering a strong, inclusive community. I'm passionate about creating an environment where everyone feels empowered to learn, grow, and advocate for what they believe in.

If chosen, I'm ready to dive in and bring my unique leadership style and collaborative spirit to the role. I see this as an opportunity to not only lead but also to make an impact within the community.

I'll make sure our meetings are not just about ticking off agenda items but also about fostering a sense of community and inclusivity. My background in law has taught me the importance of understanding rules and regulations, and I'll ensure that we operate within legal boundaries while striving for our common goals. Leading with a neutral stance means I'll listen to everyone's perspective and guide our decisions based on what's best for the whole group. My goal is to keep communication open and transparent, so everyone feels heard and valued.

I'm genuinely excited about the possibility of serving as your Chairperson. Together, let's create an environment where everyone feels empowered to contribute and grow.

Thank you for considering me for this important role. I'm excited about the opportunity to serve as your Chairperson and collaborate to make a difference at NBCGSS.



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CANDIDATE 3 - CHAIRPERSON - Maduabuchi Angus Modum

I am Maduabuchi Angus Modum, a student leader, rotaractor and a second-year graduate student from the department of Chemistry. My deep passion for making positive impact, inspiring others, and driving meaningful change, led me to presenting myself for this opportunity to represent the graduate students as the Chairperson of the Northern British Columbia Graduate Students Society. It is this fervent desire to create a positive impact that propels me forward, guiding my actions and shaping my vision for a more inclusive, supportive, and thriving environment for all graduate students.

I completed my bachelor's degree in chemistry from the Federal University of Technology Owerri, Nigeria, with a first-class honors degree. I served as the President of the Chemical Society, Student representative of Chemistry/Biochemistry students at large, and represented the school in an international program in Germany, leading the team to a victorious feat.

My passion for making impact has led me to training thousands of youths on skill acquisition over the years through my foundation "Approach Modum Initiative". Here in UNBC, I represent the graduate teaching assistants, as a TA representative, speaking and soliciting for the rights of teaching assistants in the school. I am also the graduate student's representative in the UNBC lab safety committee, ensuring that graduate students researchers get adequate safety and required mentorship while working in their various labs.

In a world where collaboration triumphs over competition, where inclusivity reigns supreme, and where community well-being is paramount, I envision a future where graduate students thrive academically, and socially, most especially our prestigious research students. As I embark on this journey to serve as the Chairperson of our esteemed graduate student body, I am driven by a deep commitment to fostering a supportive and enriching environment that empowers each student to reach their full potential, feel valued and supported.

Join me on this transformative journey as we strive to build a stronger, more connected graduate student community here in the University of Northern British Columbia. Together, we can shape a future where academic excellence, social and community engagement, as well as career growth and development, are not just ideals but lived realities for every student under our care.



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CANDIDATE 4 - Director of Community Development - Ariadna Lopez Ortega

My name is Ariadna Lopez, and I'm currently completing my first year as a master's student in NRES. I'm honored to be nominated for the position of Director of Community Development. Organizing events is my passion, and I always strive to make them more creative and enjoyable for everyone involved!

My journey as an events coordinator began during my bachelor's degree. I was part of a voluntary and leadership group where I contributed to organizing and executing various beneficial events, including reforestation drives and hair donation campaigns for cancer patients. These experiences taught me the fulfillment that comes from seeing people enjoy and engage in meaningful activities. Furthermore, I was an instructor for a STEM course aimed at 13-year-old girls, which was part of a governmental program to increase female participation in STEM fields. This role highlighted the importance of practical knowledge transfer and visual aids. Now, during my master's studies, I've taken the initiative to organize birthdays within our research group, which has been met with great enthusiasm! Through these experiences, I've developed communication skills, organizational abilities, leadership qualities, and a strong sense of collaboration. Additionally, I value creativity and empathy highly.

As a candidate for Director of Community Development, I aim to create engaging and creative events that promote cultural understanding and dismantle barriers to inclusion. I am dedicated to ensuring that every member feels valued, heard, and supported. I invite you to join me in shaping the future of our community by supporting my candidacy for Director of Community Development. Let's collaborate to create impactful initiatives together!



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CANDIDATE 5 - Director of Equity, Diversity & Inclusion - Humaira Maisha Mahmud

I am Humaira Maisha Mahmud (she/her) and always dedicated to be supportive of people of different races, ethnicities, religions, abilities, genders, and sexual orientations. I have a strong passion for empowering women and girls in particular which is why I am currently pursuing MA in English at UNBC researching on marginalized voices who are being oppressed based on their gender, race, ethnicity and class through the framework of post-colonial and black feminist criticism with hindsight on raising awareness on the excruciating experiences of women of color and their anguishes in their constant fight for securing their position and identity as individuals in the society.

The causes and initiatives of NBCGSS intrigued me as it thrives to work for the welfare of the students. I believe universities that are diverse, equitable and inclusive are better able to respond to challenges. Since UNBC has many graduate students like me from diverse backgrounds, diversity (be it gender diversity, age diversity, ethnic diversity, physical ability and neurodiversity, or sexual orientation) can help strengthen the organization. While diversity strengthens the organization, fair treatment of all must be ensured. Equality is emphasized and equity takes into consideration a person's unique circumstances. So I want to work for a sufficiently inclusive culture so that all feel their voices will be heard. So Diversity, Equity and Inclusion will merge my aforesaid passion into practical experience and I believe I can make meaningful contributions to NBCGSS.

Before joining UNBC, I completed Bachelor of Arts in English with highest distinction majoring in English Literature with the aforesaid vision in mind. This allowed me to be involved with various socio-cultural and voluntary works. I was awarded a certificate of achievement as a laudable achiever of the photography & poetry exhibition for Gender Sensitivity in the event named "Revolutio-Nari" organised by Project Debi for my poetry, "My Lady Grizzly" and certificate of achievement as one of the winners of SAYS Peace Message Contest 2015 in recognition of developing an Eco-system of young peace builders organised by SOUTH ASIAN YOUTH SOCIETY. I take an avid interest in drama and literature which helped me to receive the 2018 ASIAN ENGLISH OLYMPICS award as a participant of Radio Drama organised by BINUS University in West Jakarta, Indonesia. I was actively involved with extra-curricular activities for which I was recognised for my contribution as an Operating Team Member in DESTINATION UN 2016 organised by BANGLADESH MODEL UNITED NATIONS COUNCIL and received certificate of participation in the 1st Essay Writing & Quiz Competition organized in World Environment Day 2015 by the INSTITUTE OF DISASTER MANAGEMENT & VULNERABILITY STUDIES, University of Dhaka, certificate of achievement as a participant of a day long capacity building workshop named "Let's Talk Failure" organised by SOUTH ASIAN YOUTH SOCIETY (SAYS) and The Prothom Alo certificate of achievement as a participant of the 6th National Debate Festival in Bangladesh Shishu Academy organised by Bangladesh Debate Federation and certificate of achievement as a successful participant of the Project Display in the 16th Science Festival of Viqarunnisa Noon School & College.



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CANDIDATE 6 - Director of Equity, Diversity & Inclusion - Miley Yang

Miley Yang is a dedicated and experienced professional in the fields of education administration, student engagement, and international student programs. Miley embarked on her educational journey at Langara College in Vancouver, where she completed a University Transfer Program between 2012 and 2014. Her passion for business and management led her to the College of New Caledonia (CNC) in Prince George, where she pursued a Business Management Program from 2014 to 2016. Furthering her academic credentials, Miley is currently enrolled in the Master of Business Administration (MBA) Program at the University of Northern British Columbia, aiming to complete it in 2025.

In 2017, Miley transitioned to a career more aligned with her passions. Miley joined the College of New Caledonia (CNC) as an International Student Engagement Coordinator in 2017. In this role, she excelled in recruiting host families for the CNC Homestay Program, planning and leading activities for international students, and developing leadership programs. Her work was instrumental in enhancing the student experience at CNC, particularly for international students.

In 2022, Miley's career took another step forward as she became the Communications Administrative Assistant at CNC, where she managed website content, supervised event staff, and drafted important communications to the CNC community. Her skills in administration, project coordination, and stakeholder engagement flourished in this role, showcasing her ability to manage diverse tasks efficiently.

Currently, Miley serves as an Administrative Assistant and Project Coordinator at CNC. Her responsibilities include coordinating special initiatives, developing effective procedures, leading service satisfaction surveys, and ensuring the smooth onboarding of new staff. Her role is pivotal in maintaining the efficiency and effectiveness of the Policy & Planning services at CNC.

Outside her professional endeavors, Miley is actively involved in community and professional activities, contributing to various organizations such as Theatre Northwest, the Canadian Cancer Society, and the Immigrant and Multicultural Services Society. She has served as a member for the CNC Black History Month Committee for the last past seven years. She has also engaged in professional development through the Coaching Out of the Box 5/5/5 Coaching Skills Training and Mental Health First Aid.

Miley received the nominations for the Canadian Bureau of International Education Leadership Award in 2016 and being a finalist for the 2018 Prince George Top 40 Under 40. These accolades reflect her leadership, dedication, and positive impact on her community and the field of education.

Miley Yang is a working professional with a robust blend of skills in administration, student engagement, and community involvement. Her career trajectory demonstrates a steadfast commitment to enhancing educational experiences, particularly for international students, and her ongoing involvement in community service highlights her dedication to making a positive impact in her community.



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CANDIDATE 7 - Director of Equity, Diversity & Inclusion - **Fayooluwahan Osokoya**

My name is Fayo Osokoya. I am a determined individual with a passion for driving positive change at every level, from local communities to global initiatives. Currently, I am pursuing a Master's degree in Development Economics, having previously earned a Bachelor's degree in Economics.

To me, equity, diversity, and inclusion signify creating a safe and supportive environment where individuals from marginalized communities can thrive, regardless of their gender, race, or other identities. I am drawn to this role because I firmly believe in its potential to foster such an environment where everyone feels valued and included.

While my journey in this position has just begun, my passion for promoting equity and inclusion has been longstanding. Through my academic pursuits and volunteer experiences, I have developed a deep understanding of the systemic barriers faced by marginalized groups and the importance of creating inclusive spaces where everyone feels empowered to participate fully.

My community service journey began with volunteering at Cheshire Home, Nigeria, igniting a passion for social justice. As a university student, I supported local education as a teaching assistant. Through diverse initiatives during my service year program, I promoted agricultural sustainability and educational opportunities. These experiences enhanced my communication skills and emphasized the significance of empathy and cultural sensitivity in fostering inclusivity.

In my recent volunteer role at the Northern Women's Centre in Prince George, BC, I am learning about collaborative efforts with various community organizations to address issues of gender equality and social justice. Through this experience, I am gaining valuable insights into the importance of intersectionality and allyship in fostering inclusive environments.

If appointed as Director of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, I am committed to fostering a culture of belonging and respect within our university. I will work diligently to amplify the voices of underrepresented groups, advocate for equitable policies, and cultivate meaningful partnerships with community organizations.

Thank you for considering my application. I look forward to the opportunity to contribute to the continued success of our organization.



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CANDIDATE 8 - Director of External Relations - **Shahzeb Memon**

I am writing to express my enthusiastic nomination for the position of Director External Relations. With a strong foundation in Civil Engineering from the National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST) in Pakistan and a current pursuit of my M.A.Sc. in Structural Engineering at UNBC, my academic and professional journey has been geared towards building not just structures, but bridges between people and ideas.

During my undergraduate studies at NUST, I had the privilege of serving as the Director Social Media for the NUST Technical Amusement Club (NTAC) and the National TechFest 2020. In these roles, I was responsible for shaping the online persona and outreach of these entities, significantly boosting their visibility, engagement, and financial success through innovative social media strategies. This experience was more than a role; it was a comprehensive exercise in external relations, requiring me to coordinate seamlessly with directors across various departments—admin events, external relations, finance, publications, and graphics—to ensure a cohesive and appealing presentation of our events to the outside world. My efforts were met with a tangible increase in online viewership and event ticket sales revenue, highlighting the effectiveness of strategic external communication.

This multifaceted role honed my skills in creating and maintaining a positive public image, negotiating with external partners, and managing a team towards a common goal. These are foundational aspects of the Director External Relations role, to which I bring not only experience but also a proven track record of success. My role required an acute understanding of the dynamics of effective communication and collaboration, skills that are directly applicable to the responsibilities of Director External Relations.

Currently, as an M.A.Sc. student at UNBC, my involvement has broadened my perspective, enhancing my skills in leadership, communication, and networking. I've embraced multiple Teaching Assistant positions, which have allowed me to build a robust network within the academic community and hone my ability to convey complex ideas clearly and effectively. These experiences have equipped me with the interpersonal and organizational skills essential for the role of Director External Relations.

I am confident that my background in engineering, combined with my experience in managing external communications and building networks, uniquely positions me to contribute effectively to the Graduate Student Society as the Director External Relations. My goal is to leverage my past experiences to enhance the visibility, outreach, and impact of our society, ensuring that our collective interests and achievements are recognized and celebrated within and beyond our academic community.

I am eager to bring my blend of experience, skill, and passion for engagement to the position of Director External Relations. Together, we can build stronger connections, foster meaningful collaborations, and create lasting impacts.



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CANDIDATE 9 - Director of Internal Relations - Alimardon Erkinjonov

My name is Alimardon Erkinjonov, currently engaged in MA Development Economics studies at UNBC, where my academic journey is fueled by a passionate commitment to both my studies and contributing to the university's community. I am presently serving as a Teaching Assistant for the ECON101 course this semester, furthering my dedication to academic excellence.

In my professional journey, I have amassed a comprehensive skill set in financial management, technological proficiency, and extensive report writing, enriched by a significant history in sales and strategic partnerships. My 3 years of tenure at Temelsu International Engineering Services Inc. was particularly formative, overseeing the financial reporting and management of multimillion-dollar projects financed by the World Bank. This role not only honed my financial acumen but also emphasized the importance of innovative financial strategies and meticulous budget management to ensure project success and stakeholder satisfaction.

During my undergraduate years, I also made significant strides as an international ranking development specialist at the National University of Uzbekistan. There, I led strategic efforts to elevate the university's global standing, forging and nurturing partnerships with international bodies.

Most recently, as a Career Coach at Careerist.com, I have empowered numerous students navigating career transitions, providing customized support, feedback, and tools such as polished resumes, LinkedIn profiles, and cover letters tailored to each individual's aspirations.

Beyond my professional roles, I have actively contributed to the university's prosperity through volunteer work. As a content writer for NBCGSS, I have crafted engaging and informative content, showcasing my ability to communicate complex ideas effectively. This role has allowed me to leverage my writing skills to support the student community and foster engagement.

I am also proud to be one of the founding contributors of the UNBC Investment Club, a testament to my leadership and initiative in bringing together students passionate about finance and investment.

Applying for the Internal Relations position on the NBCGSS board, I bring a wealth of experience in financial management, reporting, and strategic budgeting. My background equips me with the necessary skills to oversee the financial affairs of the organization effectively. I am keen to leverage my financial expertise, international relations insight, and commitment to the student body to contribute to NBCGSS's success, ensuring robust financial health and strategic decision-making.

Throughout my career and volunteer endeavors, I have prioritized building strong, positive relationships, a core value I plan to continue as a board member. My dedication to excellence in finance, mentorship, and collaboration is aimed at supporting NBCGSS's mission and enhancing its impact within the UNBC community.



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CANDIDATE 10 - Director of Communications and Student Engagement – Seyed Shahryar Rahpeyma

I am keen to express my eagerness for the Director of Communications and Student Engagement position with the Northern BC Graduate Student Society. My unique journey has equipped me with a set of skills that perfectly match the diverse aspects of this role.

With a background as a professional photographer and experience managing social media for photography and language learning, I have developed a strong ability to engage varied audiences through compelling visual content. My involvement in academic groups, including a science club during my BSc and a research center in Tehran, has sharpened my skills in organizing events and fostering communication across different fields.

During my MSc, I played a key role in facilitating communication between professors and students, highlighting the value of clear dialogue. These experiences have prepared me well to enhance the NBCGSS's digital presence and ensure every student feels included and engaged.

I am particularly excited about organizing events on social media that allow students to display their talents and build a strong community. I plan to create a calendar of inclusive events reflecting our students' broad interests.

Understanding the importance of open communication, I will actively seek feedback from the student community, ensuring our society remains a place for and by graduate students. My aim is to create an environment where everyone feels encouraged to share ideas and contribute to our collective achievements.

I look forward to the possibility of contributing to the Northern BC Graduate Student Society. With my enthusiasm, experience, and vision, I am ready to make a significant difference, enhancing our digital engagement and organizing events promoting community and belonging. By working together, we can offer a supportive and enriching experience that meets and surpasses the expectations of our members, thus improving graduate student's life at UNBC.

Hoping to have the chance to project the voice of graduate students

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CANDIDATE 11 - Director of Student Welfare - MD Sultanur Ashikin

My name is MD Sultanur Ashikin, and I am honored to announce my candidacy for the position of Director of Student Welfare for the upcoming NBCGSS election. With a Bachelor's degree in Civil and Construction Engineering and currently pursuing my Master's in Applied Science at UNBC, I am deeply committed to contributing to the development and well-being of our graduate student community.

In my short time living in Prince George, Canada, I have already immersed myself in various volunteer programs, such as CCSBC and Eco Living Community, demonstrating my passion for community service and making a positive impact. In professional service as a project coordinator at the Lheidli T'enneh Band, I have honed my leadership and organizational skills, which I believe are essential for effectively managing the responsibilities of the Director of Student Welfare.

With a background in engineering, I possess valuable knowledge of lab management, which will enable me to collaborate efficiently with different labs on campus. Additionally, my strong communication skills, demonstrated through my ability to engage with diverse stakeholders including government bodies, align well with the requirements of this position. My experience in fund proposal writing further strengthens my suitability for securing sponsorships and resources to support student welfare initiatives.

I am a compassionate listener and empathetic towards the challenges faced by our student community, and I am dedicated to amplifying their voices and addressing their needs.

I am excited about the opportunity to serve as Director of Student Welfare and work collaboratively with students, faculty, and staff to create a supportive and inclusive environment that fosters the well-being and success of all graduate students at UNBC.



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CANDIDATE 12 - Director of Student Welfare - [Sophia Chinecherem Robinson](#)

My name is Sophia Robinson, a passionate graduate student in the Biochemistry and Molecular Biology program at UNBC. I hold a Bachelor of Science degree in Biotechnology from Wenzhou University, Zhejiang China. I am excited to announce my candidacy for the role of Director of Student Welfare within our Graduate Student Society.

Throughout my academic journey, I have always sought opportunities to serve. Here at UNBC, I have had the privilege of dedicating my time to volunteering with the Inspiring Women Among Us (IWAWU), the Central Interior Science Exhibition (CISE) for children in grades 4-12, and the successful Graduate Students' Week.

In addition to this experience, I had the opportunity to lead a humanitarian visit to an internally displaced persons camp (IDP camp) in northern Nigeria. During this mission, my team and I provided vital food supplies and clothing materials to those in dire need, an experience that profoundly reinforced my dedication to serving others.

I understand the importance of representation for women and international students here at UNBC. My vision for the graduate students in our society is an approach that addresses the diverse welfare needs of all graduate students ranging from food to housing and even employment opportunities.

As Director of Student Welfare with the support of the graduate student body, I will work to ensure the graduate students feel supported and valued throughout their academic journey. By actively listening to the concerns and feedback of graduate students, fostering partnerships with external employers, and drawing opportunities for sponsorships, I aim to expand the scope of the graduate student here at the University of Northern British Columbia.

In conclusion, I humbly ask for your support and vote as I embark on this journey to serve as the Director of Students Welfare. I appreciate your consideration.



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CANDIDATE 13 - Regional Students' Representative - Soleiman Hashemishahraki

I am Soleiman Hashemishahraki, an enthusiastic M.Sc. student in Business Administration at UNBC, with a solid foundation in Computer Science and the financial market from Iran. I am aspiring to be your voice as the Regional Students' Representative, bringing a blend of academic excellence and proven leadership experience to the table.

Throughout my academic journey, I have actively engaged in university life beyond just my studies. My role on the Student Commencement Executive Committee in Iran endowed me with invaluable experience in orchestrating events, collaborating with diverse teams, and effectively representing student interests. These experiences have honed my skills in collaboration, strategic planning, and representing a diverse student body—skills I am eager to leverage in advocating for and supporting our regional student community at UNBC.

As your Regional Students' Representative, my targeted plans and goals include:

1. Establishing a robust communication channel between regional students and the Director of Regional Operations to address our concerns and needs promptly.
2. Collaborating with the Director of Community Development to create initiatives that enhance a sense of community and belonging among regional students.
3. Identifying and collaborating with student leaders from regional campuses to ensure our voices are recognized and valued.
4. Maintaining consistent communication with regional students through newsletters, social media, and virtual meetings to keep us all informed and engaged.

I would be honored to receive your support for this role, as we work together to champion our needs at UNBC. Your vote will be instrumental in enhancing support services, advocating for flexibility, and enriching our academic and social experiences. Let's create a brighter future for all of us at UNBC!



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CANDIDATE 14 - Regional Students' Representative - George Amoako

I am George Amoako, a dedicated professional with years of experience in economic and community development. I hold a Bachelor of Science Degree in Economics with Computing. During my studies, I held leadership positions as the Assistant General Secretary and later became the President of the Economics Students' Association of my school. I won a National Award for my school for competing with 52 tertiary institutions in the National Youth Volunteerism and Patriotism Awards (NYVP), an initiative of the Osei Kusi Foundation in collaboration with the Ministry of Youth and Sports, Ghana. The main concept of my project was to set up an innovative vocational and business center for orphanage homes and the less privileged in societies, where young ones will not only receive donations from individuals or firms but to learn very demanding skills to begin businesses of their own. I am currently pursuing a Master's Degree in Development Economics, which has equipped me with the knowledge and skills to understand business development in emerging economies better.

Furthermore, I have played a role in teaching the youth financial literacy skills, entrepreneurship, and personal development which has helped a lot of them under my mentorship to start businesses of their own or learn new ways of making passive income. I applied these skills to various places where I worked like the African Business Center for Developing Education as Business Development Director, and Aseye Pharmaceuticals Company as Branch Manager.

While performing these roles, I was responsible for overseeing financial operations, ensuring the smooth running of the business, and developing new ideas for business expansion. My extensive work experience has honed my bookkeeping, financial management, innovation, and practical communication skills.

In addition to my professional experience, I have been actively involved in volunteer work for organizations like Paceworld Foundation, Disciplined to Disciple Network, and the United Nations Association of Ghana where I served as the Youth Organizer. I am currently a member of the United Nations Association in Canada.

I have a strong belief that my experience, skills, and passion for business and sustainable development will enable me to make meaningful contributions to UNBC and NBCGSS platforms



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CANDIDATE 15 – Director at Large - **Alireza Noory**

I am Alireza Noory, a PhD student in Natural Resources and Environmental Engineering at the University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC). I seek your support and vote for the Director at large position in the upcoming NBCGSS election. With my extensive academic and professional background, I am committed to promoting a diverse and inclusive environment that celebrates and respects all graduate students' unique perspectives and experiences.

Throughout my academic journey, I have excelled in civil engineering, specializing in road and transportation. I hold my first Ph.D. in Civil Engineering from Amirkabir University of Technology in Iran, where I was recognized as the second outstanding student of the university. I have also earned an MSc in Civil Engineering and a BS in Civil Engineering, both with exceptional academic achievements.

My professional experiences have given me valuable skills and insights to advocate for equity, diversity, and inclusion. I have served as the Supervisor of the Environment Department and the Manager of the Civil Engineering and Infrastructure Research Group at the Tehran Research and Planning Center (TURPC). As a member of various committees, including the "Automation and Urban Innovation" and "Environmental Research" committees of the Tehran municipality, I have actively contributed to fostering sustainable and inclusive urban development.

In addition to my professional engagements, I have a strong research background, with over 40 published papers, 12 technical reports, and three registered patents. I have managed more than 20 research projects and chaired numerous academic events and committees including the Civil Engineering and Architecture jury team of the Kharazmi Student Festival.

If elected as the directory member of NBCGSS, I will prioritize the following initiatives:

1. Promoting a welcoming and inclusive environment for all graduate students, regardless of their background, nationality, or identity.
2. Advocating for policies and practices that foster diversity and equal opportunities in academic and social settings.
3. Collaborating with student organizations and university administration to implement culturally sensitive programs and resources.
4. Organizing workshops, seminars, and events to raise awareness about the importance of equity, diversity, and inclusion in academia.
5. Establishing support networks and mentorship programs to assist underrepresented graduate students in achieving their full potential.

I firmly believe an inclusive and diverse community enriches the graduate student experience and enhances the academic environment. Your trust in me, Alireza Noory, as the "Director at large," will empower me to champion these values and create a more inclusive and equitable NBCGSS.

Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to serving you and the entire graduate student community.



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CANDIDATE 16 – Director at Large - Ahmad Jalil

Ahmad Jalil's aspiration to become a Director at Large is underpinned by his remarkable journey of leadership, collaboration, and community service, tightly interwoven with his academic pursuits at the University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC).

Throughout his time at UNBC, Ahmad has actively engaged in roles that highlight his leadership capabilities and his commitment to fostering a supportive and inclusive academic environment. As a Research Ambassador and a Student Society Director at Large, he has championed initiatives aimed at enhancing student life, academic collaboration, and community engagement.

His efforts in organizing significant events like Research Week and improving health insurance for students showcase his ability to address and advocate for student needs effectively. Beyond his academic and leadership roles, Ahmad has demonstrated a profound service ethic through volunteering with organizations such as Rainbow Lodge and St. Vincent De Paul Service, reflecting his deep commitment to compassionate service and community betterment.

Ahmad's journey is also marked by a commitment to diversity and resilience, as evidenced by his participation in outdoor adventures and his global travels, enriching his perspective and approach to student leadership.

As he seeks the position of Director at Large, Ahmad brings a wealth of experiences that make him uniquely qualified to represent and advance the interests of his fellow graduate students. His track record of leadership, coupled with his academic background in Health Science and ongoing studies in Natural Resource and Environmental Science, positions him as a compelling candidate poised to make significant contributions to the NBCGSS and the broader UNBC community.



NBCGSS General Election Candidates' Biography / Statement of Interest – March 2024

CANDIDATE 17 – Director of Indigenous Students' Affairs - Briana Greer

Taanishi, Briana Greer dishinihkaashoon. Terrace d'ooshchiin. Prince Rupert ni wiikin. Aen Michif niya. Hello, my name is Briana Greer. I am from Terrace, BC and live in Prince Rupert, BC when I am not studying here in Prince George! I am a proud Métis person and a member of Métis Nation British Columbia. My lineage traces back to the Red River and my family's scrip was located in Otter Creek, Alberta.

I previously completed my bachelor's degree at UNBC, double majoring in political science and global & international studies, with a certificate in public administration. I am interested in politics, governance, policy, and advocacy, which led me to enroll in the Master of Political Science Program. I hope to use my passions to further Indigenous peoples' rights and ensure there is equitable and distinctions-based initiatives within the Northern BC Graduate Students' Society and the university.

I believe in giving back to community and I will commit to making a difference for Indigenous students. As your representative, I will ensure that this university is culturally safe for Indigenous students and guide the NBCGSS board to follow reconciliatory practices and protocols.

My lived experience will bring a unique perspective to the NBCGSS Board through my lived experience as an active member of my nation, from my time as the Métis youth representative for Northwest BC, and through attending many conferences and gatherings on behalf of my local Métis community, Métis Nation British Columbia, Métis National Council, and Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak (Women of the Métis Nation). My experience sitting on boards will be a valuable asset to NBCGSS. I am the Director of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion for Carmen Arts and a Director/Métis Women's Representative for Prince Rupert & District Métis Society. I have further experience with Indigenous advocacy through my previous work as a Jordan's Principle Coordinator where I assisted First Nations and Inuit children and their families receive equitable access to educational, health, and social supports and through grant writing I have volunteered my time, to give back to Métis communities in Northwest BC.