I am running for President of the Student Government Association at Bunker Hill Community College because my path here is one of navigating challenges, but also mindfulness and empathy. To effect change in society and our communities, I believe that we need transparency, communication, and empowerment of young people. I am pursuing an AA (Liberal Arts) and Entrepreneurship Certificate. My campus leadership includes: The Commonwealth Honors Program (3.9 GPA), member of the Alpha Kappa Mu, Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society, Vice President of the Entrepreneurship Club, and the TRIO program, a grant-funded student success program. Most recently, I secured a summer internship on the People Operations team at HubSpot, the leading customer relationship management software developer. I am in these leadership roles while also being a young single mother.

Personally, transitioning all classes online was difficult. The social distancing protocol showed me how much Bunker Hill’s resources contributed to my academic success. During the last few weeks, supportive advisors have not only shared advice on my specific situation, but also connected me to other resources to ensure that I thrive.

Understanding that I am not the only person experiencing difficult moments navigating this "new normal", I feel called to help. Leaning into my vulnerability, I found myself reflecting on why I decided to go back to school. During my quest, I’ve always affirmed, “If what I am doing does not make me cry, I am doing it for the wrong reasons.” Simply, if it moves me emotionally, I know I am on the right path. Reverting to the starting point allowed me to view this transition as an opportunity to lead by example.

This pandemic has changed the way we communicate. Effective communication is the key to students being successful during this time. When students feel like they can talk with their SGA peers about anything, they are much more likely to be open and honest about their needs, and about their feelings toward the institution and how the school can support us all. If elected, my goal is to connect with as many students as possible and learn about their experiences. Specifically, I would love to focus on how Bunker Hill can shift their resourceful in-person culture to virtual learning. This can include informational video series for each resource category, such as from “navigating ‘MyBHCC’”, to “strategies for thriving in this ‘new normal’.” Below each informational video, we can have a discussion section that is directly connected to the corresponding department.

Prior to this pandemic, I noticed that not all professors or students use the Moodle platform. Other organizations have swiftly shifted to staying connected and informed, offering remote orientation and onboarding processes. This is now an opportunity to navigate and evolve our resources as a whole onto one online platform.
Empathy is not only connecting to an experience; it’s connecting to the emotions tied to an experience. I believe this pandemic is allowing us an opportunity to evaluate what has been working, and what we can strategically change as an institution. Bunker Hill is one of the largest state community colleges. In a big part, I believe that is due to its resources and community. This is a crucial moment for school leaders, administrative staff, and student leaders to join forces and propel Bunker Hill to the next level. This is an opportunity for Bunker Hill to enhance its network culture, giving it a competitive edge over other schools statewide.