Niki Nguyen  
Position: Student Trustee

Hello, my name is Niki Nguyen, and I am your current Student Trustee! I am seeking reelection because I want to continue the work I have been doing for the student population at Bunker Hill Community College (BHCC). Speaking on your behalf during my term reaffirmed my belief of how important it is for a Student Trustee to advocate for student concerns and needs. The student body deserves someone who understands the complexity of decision making and can analyze and communicate the impact of each decision to their constituents.

As your Student Trustee, my primary responsibility has been to advocate about the college barriers we struggle through and to open up communication between the college administration and the students. This position is the voice for the 11,000 of us within our community. Therefore, your Student Trustee representative must have excellent communication skills to assert the student perspective to the Board of Trustees. It is also important that the Trustee is knowledgeable of the BHCC’s programs and resources to guide current and future students.

Having compassion and hearing your student journeys pushes me to strive to be your representative. I listened to your compelling stories. Parents going back to school, international students that first stepped into the United States, students who are working two or more jobs to make ends meet. Your testimonials are memorable, where I want to continue working harder. I listened to your concerns regarding financial hardship where I represented your voice during the Student Government Association (SGA) meetings. We discussed the affordability issues compounded with the rising costs of tuition and textbooks - and that was only the beginning. From there, I continued to assert your voice at the state level. I lobbied at the State House for an increase in funding for community colleges. Your experiences bring depth and perspective to the policymakers to understand our barriers in pursuing higher education.

As we come out of the pandemic crisis this upcoming year, we are going to see many educational changes along the way. We’re heading to the unknown, but I want you to know that I will be working with you along the way as we figure this out together. Not only will I keep you updated with the online changes, but I also want to create an online student community through social media. I want us to be able to maintain our connections and develop new friendships in a different environment. With the help of SGA and our BHCC student leaders, we can do this.

Moving forward, I want to carry on with my previous work of advocating for the address of financial hardship, as well as for longer library hours during Midterms and Finals Week. I used to commute to BHCC via public transportation, and it would take approximately 1-2 hours to and from school. What if those hours of traffic were used for studying? Second, I want to raise issues of sexual violence prevention and education on our BHCC campus and continue the collaboration work of it with the Student Advisory Council (SAC). Lastly, I want to continue the work as a student representative in the Open Educational Resources (OER) committee. With the help from BHCC administration and SAC, I want to create awareness of what this resource has to offer to the College; it’s the pivotal success to fix the issue of the rising costs of textbooks.

When I first came to BHCC, I was unsure about how to deal with the stigma of community college. However, I’ve met and worked for students that possess ambitious goals to
improve their lives while juggling extracurricular activities and family life while maintaining excellent academic standing. We, as a community, are not what people think about like a conventional type of school or typical idea of students, and it contradicts any stereotype against non-traditional students. I want people to see that our community in a community college setting is not just a place for second chances, but their first chance for success.

Not only did I serve as your Student Trustee and SAC Vice-Chair this academic year, but I have also participated in other activities. I joined as a Student Mentor, an athlete for BHCC Women’s Soccer, a member of the Climate Committee (Sustainability), Promoter and President for Music Club, Vice President of Service Of Phi Theta Kappa: Alpha Kappa Mu’s chapter of the International Honor Society of the Two-Year College, and Central Vice President of the Phi Theta Kappa New England Region. I’m dedicated to academic excellence and strive for opportunities to improve professional skills by taking on leadership roles. I’m an ambassador, looking for ways to share my knowledge with others so that it will benefit the student body in a meaningful capacity. I enjoy networking and meeting prospective students. Combined with classes and student involvement, I’ve seen various types of communities and students, and I understand how challenging it can be to balance school and personal life.

As Student Trustee, I will continue to have an open and direct link to the student body. I will be available face-to-face engaging with our student groups to bring the decision making power of BHCC closer to you. I will always be present to listen to your concerns or to help you in any way I can to achieve your dreams to “Imagine the Possibilities”. You can trust me to use my voice to help create a better and fairer school and put student’s opinions above my own.

I am asking for your vote for Student Trustee. I will carry on with advocating and listening to things that are important to students. With my experiences and passion, I believe that I will continue being a great leader to serve you. I humbly ask your vote through your student BHCC email on May 6, 2020 - May 8, 2020!

Thank you,

Niki Nguyen