

FALL ELECTION 2021

Candidates Statements



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LIST OF CANDIDATES

Business Educational Centre Representative

Chahat Pusha
Marion Shevlin

Community Services and Early Childhood Educational Centre Representative

Alex Chan
Elise Patterson
Gehna Rajwani

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BUSINESS EDUCATIONAL CENTRE REPRESENTATIVE

Chahat Pusha

No Bio provided.

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BUSINESS EDUCATIONAL CENTRE REPRESENTATIVE

Marion Shevlin

Why are you running for Educational Centre Representative position ?

I believe that the students under the business umbrella deserve to be better represented. We deserve a representative who wants to work collaboratively with students as to hear all voices and better the climate at George Brown for everyone. We deserve a representative who is accountable so that all Business students feel as though they have a capable leader who can help make change. We deserve a representative who is respectful to all cultures, religions, sexualities, gender identities, and lifestyles and will work to better honor each student's individuality. Ultimately, we deserve a representative who is experienced. I have held the position of Department Head on the Carleton Academic Student Government from 2011-2013, Class Representative in the Niagara College Student Administrative Council from 2016 - 2017, and Junieur Intern for the Federal Liberal Party from 2013-2015. Together we can make the Business Program better.



What are your top three priorities as an Educational Centre Representative?

As Business Education Centre Representative there would be more channels of communication with students so that we can work collaboratively to make changes that students want to see. I would honour students' individuality through events that celebrate the diversity found in George Brown College. Finally, there should be more accountability to the students in the Student Association, such as keeping students informed about changes to their programs and having more transparency of the dealings of the student association.

You will have a short time as an educational centre representative, approximately four months: (a) how would you ensure success in the role? (b) how will you proceed to represent students in your centre during the four month term?

I would ensure success in this role and best represent students by holding town meetings where I can listen to students and provide other channels of communication, and work swiftly to implement suggestions. I will also hold events to celebrate the diversity of George Brown where I can also meet with students and discuss changes they would like to see.

What is the biggest issue facing the educational centre you hope to represent?

The biggest issue that is currently facing the educational centre is the lack of active communication. Communication must always be a two-way street, there needs to be more communication than a monthly newsletter, and little way to actively contribute to the SA. There needs to be more widely promoted channels of communication so that students can actively participate and so students may be kept up to date on the dealings of the SA.

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COMMUNITY SERVICES AND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATIONAL CENTRE REPRESENTATIVE

Alex Chan

Why are you running for Educational Centre Representative position ?

I used to think that being silent about things I believed in or things I didn't like was said was the right thing to do. I mean, no arguments with people. No backlash. Less drama and hurt in the end. But, you know what? I believe that having a voice is the most powerful weapon. My mom taught me that. She said that we need to have a voice in order to be seen and heard. This is what I am now doing. I believe students also have a voice and it's how we use our voice to speak about matters that are important to us. That is why I want to run and be a voice for the students.



What are your top three priorities as an Educational Centre Representative?

I always believe in an anti-racist and anti-biased environment meaning that I am going to be compassionate and accepting to all ethnic groups and have respect for diversity and culture. Another thing I strongly believe in is supporting students' mental health and well-being. I have some mental health challenges such as anxiety and I also have some learning challenges as well. I am willing to support and listen to students who are struggling... because I get it, it really sucks to go through this. But, you don't have to go through this alone. I'm willing to advocate for mental health by adding more mental health supports, such as a therapy dog who will come into the school to see students in order to make their days a bit brighter. I am willing to even have therapy dogs come into classes during an online school setting as well. I have a golden retriever who's been really great with emotionally supporting me, so even if I come into an online class setting with my dog, it should put a smile on the student's faces. I also want to find more ways to promote mental health services that are offered online or on campuses. I had the idea that we could promote these mental health services that are being offered to students' emails once or twice a month. I also would like to add resources students can read and find out where to access them. I was also thinking of creating one webpage where students can find information to GBC services regarding mental health and even send a survey to check in and see how these new ideas can be improved or enhanced. I find that going to different websites and social media sites can be a bit too overwhelming because too many tabs are being opened. This way, it will be easier to find a summary with all the resources and links. Inclusivity is a very important value to me. I believe that all students can succeed and that students matter. Their issues matter. That is why I want to support all students and I want to advocate for them within the program of community services and early childhood.

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COMMUNITY SERVICES AND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATIONAL CENTRE REPRESENTATIVE

You will have a short time as an educational centre representative, approximately four months: (a) how would you ensure success in the role? (b) how will you proceed to represent students in your centre during the four month term?

I would ensure my success in the role of a program representative by working hard. I am up for a challenge. I am a part of the Student Leadership Academy and I am also involved in The Dean's Ambassador Program. I have given some talks at orientation events this semester online, such as the How to Succeed at George Brown discussion. I also plan to take part in The Celebration of Cultures event that will be running from November 22, 2021, to November 26, 2021. I will be a guest speaker on Tuesday, November 23, 2021, on Instagram Live to get volunteer hours for the Student Leadership Academy. You've probably have seen me online doing some of the social events with SAGBC Events and working part-time as a peer coach with Peerconnect Community either on Discord and/or on Instagram working the Mood Routes program. I want to represent students by engaging with students in a hybrid environment. I plan to email surveys to students to check up on them and see what some key issues are as well as show up to campuses and chat with students to hear them out. What they have to say, how can we improve?

What is the biggest issue facing the educational centre you hope to represent?

Mental Health Stigma and Barriers. I want to break the stigma and break down those barriers and be an advocate for mental health in students and just openly talk about mental health. Start a conversation

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COMMUNITY SERVICES AND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATIONAL CENTRE REPRESENTATIVE

Elise Patterson

Why are you running for Educational Centre Representative position ?

My name is Elise Patterson, and I am a student in The School of Early Childhood Education's C118 program. I grew up in the Greater Toronto Area for most of my life and love the rich cultural diversity of the area. I previously graduated from the University of Western Ontario with a degree in Linguistic Anthropology before I decided to pursue my true passion in Early Childhood Education at George Brown College. Throughout my post-secondary education, various



extracurriculars, and work experiences, I have carried a deep fervor for advocacy and equity. As a Black and bisexual woman, I have experienced bigotry throughout my life, but I also recognize my position of privilege within society. I always strive to use my privilege to campaign for equity. As members of helping professions, we are advocates; we work with extremely vulnerable members of society and offer our support. However, we must acknowledge that while we have a responsibility to the people we work with; we deserve support too. I have seen the way that online learning and the Covid-19 pandemic have made us feel isolated in our studies. I want to help foster a tight knit community within our faculties again. As the Community Services and Early Childhood Educational Centre Representative, my priority will be extending support services, implementing assistance for students in placement, and looking for ways in which I can uplift our community through George Brown College. Our sectors depend on a strong sense of collectivism to help people and I will bring this mentality into my tenure as your representative.

What are your top three priorities as an Educational Centre Representative?

1. Advocating for students with high needs to receive appropriate accommodations. Whether that be disability, familial commitments, or any other extenuating circumstances
2. Looking into how I can ensure that placements for George Brown students are fair and equitable for all students.
3. Promoting collectivism within our community

You will have a short time as an educational centre representative, approximately four months: (a) how would you ensure success in the role? (b) how will you proceed to represent students in your centre during the four month term?

I will ensure success by using my ambition. I am currently working as a Peer Leader with George Brown and I have seen the struggles that first years have been facing first hand. This has inspired me to campaign. I will put the needs of the students first. I will encourage an "open door" policy

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COMMUNITY SERVICES AND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATIONAL CENTRE REPRESENTATIVE

in regard to suggestions and speaking with students directly about their most important needs. In my four month term I plan to take a hands on approach. I want to be a recognizable face to all students in Community Services and Early Childhood Education programs.

What is the biggest issue facing the educational centre you hope to represent?

The biggest issue that I plan to tackle is equity. Students in our programs come from all walks of life. There are students who come from all parts of the world, have families, or other responsibilities. They have diverse needs and I want to examine how the educational centre approaches these needs, and change it for the better.

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COMMUNITY SERVICES AND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATIONAL CENTRE REPRESENTATIVE

Gehna Rajwani

Why are you running for Educational Centre Representative position ?

I have always wanted to make an impact in the lives of people in any way that I can and I feel like this is a really good opportunity for me to help people from my course in a better way.

What are your top three priorities as an Educational Centre Representative?

1. I want to be able to help new students with any issues or concerns they have.
2. I hope to help with any events, in person or online.
3. I intend on being as helpful as people from the student association were with me and helping as much as they did me.

You will have a short time as an educational centre representative, approximately four months: (a) how would you ensure success in the role? (b) how will you proceed to represent students in your centre during the four month term?

- a. I will ensure that the doubts of new students are cleared as much as possible.
- b. I want to make it clear to all new students that they can approach me whenever they want and with any question they have not just about the college, but about their course as well, and I hope to answer these queries to my best ability.

What is the biggest issue facing the educational centre you hope to represent?

I want to explain blackboard well in advance and help students prepare their timetables.



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