

2026 Student Leadership Council Officer Candidates (in ballot order)

Isabella “Luna” Escobar



Hello, my name is Isabella “Luna” Escobar, and I live in West Chicago. Currently, I am a Paralegal Studies major, and you can contact me at my student email escobari@dupage.edu.

"When the whole world is silent, even one voice becomes powerful." - Malala Yousafzai. This quote embodies what it means to be a part of the Student Leadership Council. Advocating, even when times become tough, is the foundation of what it means to be the voice of the students.

I am running for Student Leadership Council officer because I believe together, we can uplift one another. I believe that together, we can be strong, and I would love to be the

spearhead of this belief. If I were to be elected, I would ensure that students be the focus. My work would be driven by the student voice—not to just be taken lightly or as “advice” but be at the forefront of my mind and my work.

Throughout my time here at the College of DuPage, I have served in various leadership positions. I was once an Orientation Leader as well as a Team Lead, a part of the Civic Leaders Program, the Operations Officer of the Chaparral Activities Board, and have previously served on various club boards. Additionally, I am the previous Student Trustee, which is a position of servitude and justice. This work has allowed me to become connected within the student body. I have walked with students to hear their stories. I have sat down with students to listen, and I have connected with students to create a space of belonging, welcomeness, and honesty.

I am constantly appreciative of what the College of DuPage has allowed me to explore and learn. COD has given me the space to meet new people, learn from new experiences, and build the person I am today. I believe togetherness is the foundation of this college, and I would love to be a part of the team to ensure this unity continues.

Danna Gonzalez



Hello, I'm Danna Gonzalez, a first-year student majoring in political science and economics with a pre-law focus. I reside in Wheaton, Illinois.

Coming to COD has truly impacted my life because of the people supporting me. I serve as a Student Leadership Council representative, an officer for Law & Leadership Society, and sit on the Completion Committee, where I've gained firsthand experience working with administrators to address student concerns. I'm running for Student Trustee to continue my work as a servant-leader and be the voice for the student body.

A big part of who I am comes from my immigrant parents. Their journey shaped my passion for service and my drive to represent others. Growing up, I saw how assumptions are made about immigrants and underrepresented communities.

I've made it my mission to uplift voices that often go unheard.

COD's classrooms are full of unique students, and clubs that empower diverse beliefs. But diversity only works when people feel seen, heard, and supported. As Student Trustee, I would ensure all students feel they belong and that their voices reach the Board.

My core strengths, advocacy and building relationships, make me a strong fit for this role. The Student Trustee serves as the primary student voice on the Board, advocating directly to college leadership. I value everyone's perspective, and my time at COD has allowed me to connect with people from all backgrounds. COD is better because of our student body's uniqueness.

As Student Trustee, I would bring concerns about affordability, accessibility, campus resources, and inclusion directly to decision-makers. I would reach underrepresented parts of campus, cultivate openness in Board interactions, and ensure student priorities shape institutional decisions.

I want to be Student Trustee to serve as a bridge between students and leadership, ensuring every voice is heard where decisions are made. Thank you.

Vrunda Patel



I'm running for an officer position to ensure the Student Leadership Council actively works for students, not just representing them. Many important discussions occur in committees and meetings, yet most students are left in the dark. If elected, I will prioritize improving communication, so students are informed about campus news, policy changes, and decisions impacting their experience at College of DuPage.

I aim to make the Student Leadership Council more accessible by creating efficient channels for students to learn about campus activities and share their concerns. When students are informed and engaged, the student government can be more effective. I also want to foster collaboration between student organizations, as I've witnessed the benefits of teamwork in

various clubs.

Attending leadership summits across Illinois and the U.S. has equipped me with strategies for student advocacy, which I plan to implement at College of DuPage. As a cybersecurity major, I value transparency, accountability, and organization, and I'm committed to ensuring student voices are heard and respected.

What I appreciate most about College of DuPage is its strong sense of community and the opportunities for personal and academic growth. As an officer, I want to help strengthen that community by making sure every student knows that their voice matters and that they have a place to shape the future of this campus.

Eduardo “Eddie” Contreras



Hey, my name is Eddie Contreras and I'm running for SLC officer during this spring election. I'm an Economics and Political Science major at COD, and I live in Downers Grove. You can contact me at Contrerese1707@dupage.edu. I'm running for this position because I'm looking to represent the voice of students at COD and have the ability to make positive changes at this school. At COD I have been involved in several things: I am the Vice President of Economics Club, Chair of HIA and Outreach of Phi Theta Kappa, Member of Student Leadership Council and Honor's Student Advisory Committee, participant of Living Leadership Program, and have presented research at the Great Reads Showcase and Honor's Council Illinois Region at Depaul.

Through my involvement in these clubs, I have learned how important it is for students to have a voice in the policies that affect their experience on campus. If elected, I want to make sure student concerns, ideas, and perspectives are represented through Student Leadership Council. I also hope to help strengthen collaboration between different student organizations so that more students feel connected and involved at COD. My goal is to continue building a campus environment where students feel supported, represented, and encouraged to participate in the community.

Venuka Rajpurohit



My name is Venuka Rajpurohit, and I am a resident of Joliet, Illinois. I am currently majoring in Cybersecurity at College of DuPage. I am seeking the position of Student Council Officer and Student Trustee. This is because I am genuinely interested in the student representation aspect and want to ensure that the voice of the students is heard, recognized, and implemented. This is an opportunity for the students to be part of the decision-making process in the college's journey forward.

The Student Trustee position is an opportunity to represent the student body at the board level. This position allows the student to represent the student body in the decision-making process, including the discussions that shape the way forward in the college.

College is not only about learning; it is also about the college community, the opportunities provided, and the growth experienced. I hope to contribute to this experience for everyone at the college by promoting participation and activities that help students achieve success in their academic and personal lives.

Throughout my time at COD, I have been actively involved in student organizations and leadership activities. I have worked cooperatively with students, student leaders, and professors to organize activities, communicate with various groups, and address student issues. This has helped me understand the significance of accountability, teamwork, and communication when representing the views of others.

As a cybersecurity major, I am meticulous, honest, and solution oriented. My leadership experiences have also helped me become a better listener, task-oriented, and a responsible student advocate.

As a COD student representative, I will make sure to represent the views of the students fairly, communicate effectively, and contribute positively to the COD community. Students who want to discuss their thoughts and issues with me are always welcome to email me at rajpurohitv@dupage.edu.

Luka Volarevic



I am running for Student Leadership Council Officer and Student Trustee because I genuinely care about representing and advocating for the student body. I believe every student deserves to feel heard, supported, and empowered, and I want to help create an environment where student voices directly influence decisions that impact our campus.

Since beginning my journey at College of DuPage, I have made a strong effort to get involved and fully immerse myself in campus life. I applied and went through the interview process for NSO because I wanted to play a role in welcoming and guiding new students. I also attended many of the events during the first two weeks of the semester taking advantage of those opportunities to network, meet new people, and get acclimated to the campus community. These experiences allowed me to build meaningful connections and better understand the diverse perspectives of our students.

My leadership experience began in high school, where I served as Vice President of Student Council for all four years. In that role, I helped plan events, collaborate with administrators, and advocate for my peers. I am a strong communicator, a team-oriented leader, and someone who believes in taking initiative and making things happen. I am responsible, driven, and currently maintain a 4.0 GPA, which reflects my commitment and discipline.

What I appreciate most about College of DuPage is its diversity, opportunity, and supportive environment. I am ready to bring dedication, integrity, and action-focused leadership to serve our student body.

Karolina Vainius

No picture or candidate statement submitted.