

FULL COUNCIL CANDIDATE PLATFORMS

CCSGA 2013-2014

We asked potential Full Council Representatives two questions:

What qualities or experience make you qualified for the position you are running for?

How will you improve Colorado College through a Full Council position?

The responses to these are listed below.

First Year Representatives (3)

Mayss Al Alami

What qualities or experience make you qualified for the position you are running for?

Call me crazy, but I loved school. I loved the stress and the busy times. I loved the late nights and exhausting long days. I loved rushing from soccer practice to debate team meeting. I loved studying for exams, making notes and pushing myself to the limits. It should come as no surprise that after my third year of high school, I couldn't let go of school just yet. One more year wasn't enough. I wanted to experience more at school. As I graduated from one school, I enrolled at another that offered the IB (International Baccalaureate) Diploma, and stayed there for another 2 years.

With 5 years of high school, I lived my school life to the maximum. In grade 9 I was nominated by the school to attend the People to People Leadership Summit at Harvard. At 14 years old I travelled alone to the US and managed to get back home in one piece after a month. Grade 10, after campaigning, I was elected by more than 50% of the students as the Chairperson of the Sports Club, the biggest club at the school. As for grade 11, my final year at the school, I went through the process of writing an essay and 2 interviews, and was chosen as the Head Girl of my school. That same year I was also the CEO of the Annual Business and Economics Fair where I managed every detail and worked with the head of department. I was also the captain of the soccer team for two years. As for my new school I dove right into the student life, not allowing change to get in my way. I became the deputy class president, co-editor of the school's newsletter, captain of the soccer team and managed to climb mountain Kilimanjaro.

Leadership, time management, communication and persistence are traits that were inevitably embedded in me after all those experiences. I cultivated my passion for communicating with others, hearing others out and understanding them. I became passionate about public speaking and event planning. I learnt that responsibility and commitment were the main anchors to every

step in life. And finally, and most importantly, I learnt the value of being trusted by those around me to represent them and yet still remain part of them.

How will you improve Colorado College through a Full Council position?

I tried. I really tired, I promise. I tried to look for that one problem that would wrap my campaign up like pita bread around flafel, but I couldn't. You know why? Because I realised that I couldn't prioritise one problem over the other, as my preferences must defer from others' preferences. This is not about my interest. This is not a position where I benefit, but rather one for the students to benefit from. I am NOT choosing to run for Freshmen Replacement, I am choosing to run for Freshmen REPRESENTATIVE. What is my priority? Whatever is bothering you.

We are all away from home and are so desperately trying to make this our new home. As an international student who is miles and miles away from home, I understand the struggle at its most extreme levels. With my experience I want to help smoothen the edges of Colorado College for you. With my leadership qualities and my love to communicate with others, I hope to be the connecting bridge between the students and the CCSGA. I will speak up and devote my time for CCSGA, and I will be determined to deal with the issues, concerns and preferences that are raised by the students. Most importantly, I would be privileged to hear what the students have to say and what's bothering them. How could CC become an even better place? That's the question I want to hear the students answer because I'm sure that students don't need help finding the problem, but rather, they need help to solving it. When they do answer, I want to help them speak up so that I can, by working with CCSGA, help leave no stone unturned and no issue unchallenged.

Abe Mamet

What qualities or experience make you qualified for the position you are running for?

I have a fair amount of leadership experience. I was on student council four years at my high school, two of which I was class president and one of which I was Head Boy (co-student body president). I have also had a fair amount of leadership and responsibility at my summer camp, where I was assistant kitchen manager two years ago and last year in charge of evening programs, fourth of July, and color wars.

But that means very little. Anyone can hold these positions, with a bit of luck.

I believe I am qualified to be on CCSGA because I am not afraid to make my positions and opinions known, even if I must stand against the majority. I am willing to work for positive change. Most of all, I listen to you. Your opinions matter, and I will be sure to have a conversation with you, the person who really matters, about issues facing our student body today.

How will you improve Colorado College through a Full Council position?

I will improve CC by thinking through tough decisions yet having the will to act. I will work hard to make this school a better place for everyone, not just the outspoken few.

Tom Roberts

What qualities or experience make you qualified for the position you are running for?

I have an extensive amount of leadership experience which I hope to both contribute and cultivate as a part of Full Council. I served as President of my high school's National Honor Society, President of my high school's Youth in Government Club in addition to being elected as the Colorado state-wide Youth Lieutenant Governor, founded and served as President of my high school's Law Club, participated in mock trial and continue to do so here at CC, served as Chair of a youth grant-allocation committee, and worked this summer as an intern at the Boulder County District Attorney's Office, among other things. Through these experiences I have become comfortable in leadership roles and in working with groups to achieve goals.

However, I believe the greatest trait I have which qualifies me for the position is my humility. Despite my experience as a leader, I strive to never take myself too seriously and to maintain a balance between a variety of activities, interests and pursuits. I love snowboarding, hiking, camping, playing tennis, and just kicking back with friends in addition to having a passion for leading, learning, and understanding diverse ideas and perspectives. Thus, while I bring a considerable amount of leadership experience to the table, I also am approachable, relatable, laid-back, open-minded and would love to hear anyone's input or point of view.

I hope this qualifies me in your mind and helps to earn your vote for Tom Roberts to represent you as Freshmen Representative to Full Council this year.

How will you improve Colorado College through a Full Council position?

As a freshman, I have only had the opportunity to participate as a member of the CC community for a brief time. However, as a member of Full Council, I hope to expose myself to the both the issues and opportunities for improvement which the college and student body face. Through this exposure, I seek to understand the issues in the context of a community which strives to address them, in addition to learning about the process in which change comes about at CC. This will help me to identify both the problems and the methods in which to solve them so that I can affect positive change at CC over the time I'll spend here. In other words, I will improve Colorado College by learning about and becoming effectively engaged with the school as a whole, enabling me to concretely and positively mold the community as I maintain engagement throughout my time at CC.

Samantha Saccomanno

What qualities or experience make you qualified for the position you are running for?

I have been involved in school leadership through my high school as I was a part of many clubs and a club president. I have also had many bigger, outside experiences that have made me a better leader. For example, I have participated in rigorous back country trips where leadership was of high focus, I have traveled abroad and learned how to work with people of different backgrounds on social and environmental issues, and I have also worked in the field with NASA. Experiences such as these have helped me become the motivated, determined, ambitious, professional, reliable, and enthusiastic individual I am today. These qualities that I embody will serve to make me a great freshmen representative for Colorado College.

How will you improve Colorado College through a Full Council position?

I will improve Colorado College by listening to my fellow peers and understanding what they want to see improved and then dedicating my time to make those improvements happen. I will reach out to a wide variety of CC students and listen to what they want to see improve here at CC. As a well rounded individual, I am interested in helping improve CC from a variety of angles to help continue making this college a great institution.

Mallory Shipe

What qualities or experience make you qualified for the position you are running for?

I have a balanced approach to leadership that is reflective of my personal philosophy toward life. I am goal-oriented but not obstinate, assertive without being overbearing, honest without sacrificing personal convictions. I am open minded and receptive to feedback. Additionally, my organizational and time management skills allow me to be involved in a variety of activities without compromising personal duties and priorities.

As a freshman, much of my leadership experience comes from my high school days, where I was involved with various service-based organizations. I was vice president of the National Honor Society and Best Buddies; president of a Youth Advisory Board created to encourage youth volunteerism in the community; and a mentor to local elementary students.

Now at CC, I have pursued similar opportunities to engage with the community. On campus, I'm a mentor with CCLIM, involved in Greek Life, and a writer for the Catalyst. Off campus, I'm a field intern with Rocky Mountain Field Institute (RMFI), responsible for leading volunteer groups in trail maintenance projects every weekend in Garden of the Gods.

I love being part of the CC community, but I feel like the best is yet to come! As an SGA council representative, I will have the privilege of representing your thoughts, opinions, and goals to the CC community at large. I will let your voices be heard so that student government becomes a collective endeavor to make CC the best it can be.

How will you improve Colorado College through a Full Council position?

Freshmen bring a new energy and perspective to campus that enriches and diversifies our community. I will contribute your unique thoughts and opinions to the council, while being a steward of the current administration's vision, to bring about changes that benefit the collective interest.

A personal goal I have for our school is to continue to encourage sustainability and environmental awareness on campus. I recently attended Dr. Mitch Thomashow's lecture, "The Nine Essentials of Campus Sustainability," and learned that although CC is doing a good job of promoting sustainability, there is still room to improve. You can count on me, as your council representative, to propose and support initiatives that will create a more sustainable campus and culture.

Sidharth Tripathi

What qualities or experience make you qualified for the position you are running for?

First and foremost, I am a communicator. I pretty much tell it to people as it is, and although this might seem arrogant, the one thing that I've learned in high school is that by being genuine in your opinions and beliefs, it's easier to get others to listen to you.

Second, I'm a public speaker. In my junior year of high school, I created a club known as the Youth Empowerment Club (YEC). YEC has two main components: one that focuses on developing/presenting an anti-bullying curriculum and another that focuses on peer-mentoring. I facilitated conversations within the club and also presented the anti-bullying curriculum at state leadership conferences.

Third, I'm a listener. I don't believe in shutting other people down simply because I don't agree with them. I listen and try my best to compromise with people. This helps get stuff done.

Lastly, I'm an initiator. I'm not afraid to bring student concerns and ideas directly to people of authority and create some sort of legitimate response to help address those needs. I've done this high school, and I plan on doing it in college.

Plus I'm like Pedro from Napoleon Dynamite I'll make your wildest dreams come true.

How will you improve Colorado College through a Full Council position?

From my early elementary school years through the end of middle school, I was a victim of bullying. Being a first generation Indian within the US, I was constantly tormented for the color of my skin, the type of clothes that I wore, and the friends I chose to be around. Hindi was my first language, and it came to a point where learning English posed a significant challenge to me,

and made me a perfect target for bullying. Rather than becoming embittered by these experiences, I learned more about the kind of person I wanted to become and developed compassion, patience, and acceptance of others. Although bullying for me has diminished, I still witness the continued affliction towards my peers. As Student-Body Vice President of my high school, I have been able to work closely with school administrators, students, and the community to develop programs and events that promote the inclusion of diversity by allowing these students to sit together and talk about their experiences. By doing this, I have learned to not only develop strong relationships with strangers, but have been able to make a significant impact on the lives of other students by simply listening, showing them empathy, and most of all, giving them a stronger voice within our community. Through learning more about my own heritage and traditions, and learning to garner a sense of compassion for other people's cultures and differences, the one thing that I have realized about diversity is how it illustrates that it only takes one person to make a significant difference in the lives of others. By building on my leadership skills and background knowledge from high school, I plan to listen to the intellectually diverse voices at CC and through the help of my peers create a platform for discussions about to diversity to occur.

Sophomore Representatives (2)

Matthew Swartsfager

What qualities or experience make you qualified for the position you are running for?

I joined the U.S. Air Force just out of high school with the desire to serve and earn the money I needed for an exceptional liberal education like the one offered at Colorado College. I was fortunate to be promoted quickly and become one of the youngest sergeants in the Air Force. I served in numerous leadership positions which included the President of the Airmen's council (a union of junior level Airmen which functioned very similarly to a student government), President of Booster Club, Non-Commissioned Officer in charge of ceremonies for the Honor Guard, and logistics technical training "Red Rope" (Airmen in Charge). After four years, I left the military because I believe the minds and efforts of students at institutions like CC have the potential to create limitless change in the world and I am dedicated to being apart of it. Since joining Colorado College, I have worked to construct the new Tiger Patrol Student Safety Coalition, was asked to serve on the President's Diverse and Inclusive Campus Team, founded the Tiger Bootcamp Fitness Community and hope to contribute to the Llamapalooza Planning Committee and Full Council.

How will you improve Colorado College through a Full Council position?

Colorado College is a unique and exceptional school, which has been largely successful in leading the tide of change within liberal arts and higher-education but the work of modernizing and improving institutions like CC is never done. In all of my endeavors at Colorado College, I will act to maintain and improve the college's status as the premier education institution in Colorado by:

1. Increasing the dialogue and influence the college enjoys within the community of Colorado Springs and Colorado at large by increasing the amount of exposure students have to extra-institutional affairs. By lobbying for organizations in which the CC community spear-heads public events and volunteerism (like Student Ambassadors, Collaborative for Community Engagement, Tiger Patrol and the numerous volunteerism organizations) I hope to change the perception of a CC bubble while spreading institutional awareness and influence.
2. Building a large, diverse culture of activism on campus through the support of opinion driven organizations on campus. By encouraging groups like CC Democrats, Young Republicans and Femco, which act to engage the student body in the meaningful social debates of our time, I plan to help make CC an environment where students feel prepared and comfortable standing up for what they believe in.
3. Encouraging the administration to continue integrating innovative and technological solutions to solve problems of efficiency, sustainability and community. Though the campus has done well in building a sustainable campus and encouraging programs like CC Farm and EnAct, much more can be done to modernize the campus and keep CC on the cutting edge of educational and environmental technologies. As a representative within CCSGA, I will charge our institutional leaders with not taking their foot off the "gas pedal" of reform.

Reed Young

What qualities or experience make you qualified for the position you are running for?

The story that best tells why I want to run for CC Student Government dates back to the 2nd grade.

Like many kids in the 2nd grade I had daily chores to do for my family. Once a week I took the trash and recycling out back to the trashcans. I had a system: after eating my bowl of cereal in the morning, I'd get out the trash and recycling and take it out back. The problem was that I always forgot which bag was the recycling and which was trash. Too many times the trash went into the recycling and the recycling into the trash. Then, one day I figured it all out. I started putting the Recycling in my Right hand. The day was saved.

Since that day my problem solving skills haven't been the same, and these are the type of skills that I'd bring to the Student Government if I am elected.

How will you improve Colorado College through a Full Council position?

I am interested in making Student Government more approachable and making sure that students know that Student Government is there for them. I want students to know that if they have ideas about ways to improve the school or have ideas about the administration they feel comfortable talking to us.

As a Student Government Representative I want to build off the successes of SGA in the past years, but also add and improve to what they have done. My overall goal for SGA is to continue to strengthen the CC student body through administering student groups and activities, but also through hosting fun activities that bring CC students out.

Kelsey Zeikel

What qualities or experience make you qualified for the position you are running for?

I believe I am qualified to hold a position representing the sophomore class because of my passion for communicating areas of concern and problem solving. I am an extremely organized person with an eye for detail that could be beneficial in helping voice opinions and of CC students. As a sophomore who has enjoyed the wealth of opportunities both socially and academically, I feel like I am in a great position to realistically match the wants of CC students with functional needs of the college. I have experience in being a part of a student government organization and realize every organization and year requires adjustments in approaches and attitude. I believe my biggest strength is my ability to advocate my own beliefs, but also remain flexible in situations where multiple perspectives can exist.

How will you improve Colorado College through a Full Council position?

I will improve Colorado College by offering an intuitive, yet open-minded approach to areas of concern and discussion. I am a student who cares about CC and how students experience life on campus. I want the environment around me to be a place where people are happy and are propelled to be successful individuals, while still functioning as a positive community. I love this school and because of that, I want to help change programs/policies that need adjustments and be a part of the support behind great ideas already in existence.

Junior Representatives (2)

Samantha Albert

What qualities or experience make you qualified for the position you are running for?

I am qualified to serve as a Finance representative because I have positive leadership experience, I am organized and responsible, and I enjoy working cohesively with others. Last year I served on CCSGA as a District Representative and was exposed to the inner-workings of student government. I learned about the importance of fostering positive relationships between government members and other campus groups, working effectively and responsibly within task forces, working to achieve common goals, focusing on accountability, etc. - something that I will continuously bring to the Finance Committee. I am also currently an RA in Slocum and have

learned the art of balancing academics with other responsibilities in an organized, creative and responsible manner.

How will you improve Colorado College through a Full Council position?

The role of Finance Committee representative is extremely important in the sense that Finance representatives must foster positive relationships with other campus organizations so that organizations can be financially successful. As a member of full council I believe that I would be a great asset to improving the relationships between CCSGA and other campus groups. While CCSGA accountability and transparency has greatly improved recently, I would like to make this an ongoing process - a process that fosters true feelings of representation and connection. I would also like to explore ways to encourage turnout for important discussions and events (CCSGA sponsored or not) that deal with campus-wide issues that affect the greater student body (i.e. the relationship with the CO Springs community, Strategic Initiatives, mental health, etc.).

Tashbid Sattar

What qualities or experience make you qualified for the position you are running for?

My experience with student government began during my time at a two-year international boarding school in India (UWC). During a time when the School administration was accused of poor communication and a lack of transparency, I lobbied, together with some friends, for greater student representation. Our efforts ultimately resulted in the establishment of a student council, to which I was elected. During my time on student council, I managed to get student curfew time extended, and helped increase transportation options provided by the school for the students.

I have been at CC two years, but have not been involved with student government here. But over the last two years, I feel like I've grown to understand the place much better, and feel well equipped to tackle the problems our student body and college face. I work at the Registrar's office, where I interact with students on a daily basis, answering questions and helping them with problems whenever possible. I have also been involved with student groups like MOSAIC and SASA, and Departmental groups like PSAC (Political Science Action Committee). I think all of these experiences have helped me connect with the campus better, and prepared me to run for student government.

How will you improve Colorado College through a Full Council position?

Right now, I do not think that our student body is properly connected to the CCSGA. While the student government interacts to a good degree with the various student groups, it does not connect enough with students on the individual level. In a school with such a small student body, I think that this could be possible. There are already some provisions, such as the possibility to go and speak with CCSGA reps in their Worner Center office. But I'd like to see if the scope for

such interaction could be expanded. I hope to expand the platform for dialogue between the various organs of this college.

Senior Representatives (2)

Arezoo Hababi

What qualities or experience make you qualified for the position you are running for?

I am under the impression that almost anything at CC can be changed given enough student support, being persistent enough, and knowing who to talk to. Most everyone at CC really believes in the ideals of CC and is here to help; the administrative staff here is absolutely wonderful, and sometimes we don't recognize that. I happen to know a large number of CC administration; I worked at the Career Center in upstairs Worner, as an RA, and with the Center of Service and Learning. Moreover, I know a lot of the proceedings that happen around campus, which is really a direct result of knowing a lot of the staff. That's always a good place to start when trying to figure out where to go for policy initiatives.

More importantly though, I really care about CC and I care about the students. We all believe in CC and we all think it's great, but it takes a certain perspective and initiative to recognize and advocate for change. I don't look at my time at CC, look at the limitations of another year, and think I can tolerate another year, leave and then not care. I think what we do now sets precedent for incoming students, and that's an important notion on its own. I'm super approachable and friendly, and love meeting new students, hearing new opinions. This is a really social job, and I feel as if I would fit the position well.

How will you improve Colorado College through a Full Council position?

I feel like CC is one of those places where students constantly have ideas of change, ways they would like to make the school better, but very rarely do I see initiative taken. As oft is the case, there can be conflict between the administration and the student body. The important notion here is one of starting a dialogue, regardless of results, of acknowledging the issue. I would like to see students given more forum and opportunity to voice their opinions and be taken in a serious manner.

At that point, I don't think it is necessarily up to me to decide how to improve CC. Of course I have my own ideas and opinions of way things need to change, but that's not really the point of student government. The student government is meant to serve the best interests of the student body, and as such I want to hear the opinions of ya'll. I want to know what students think needs to be done; those are the concerns that become a priority, not my own, I can't say what I will do, without a doubt, to improve CC. I can say if an issue is brought to my attention, I will do what I can to address it.

Seema Ibrahim

What qualities or experience make you qualified for the position you are running for?

After 4 years here, I think that I understand Colorado College's unique culture fairly well. Also as a senior who lives off campus I have an idea of the primary concerns of the senior class and feel I can represent them well.

How will you improve Colorado College through a Full Council position?

By bringing more of the student's voice to the attention of the school and CCSGA.

Finance (4)

Jaden Hawkinson

What qualities or experience make you qualified for the position you are running for?

Last year I participated as a member of the Financial Committee and successfully worked in a team setting to manage the finances. As a team, we utilized the budget to its full use. I believe in student activities and students planning memorable events :)

How will you improve Colorado College through a Full Council position?

I am involved in many communities on campus and will be able to contribute a voice shaped by my peers and faculty.

Takanori Kondo

What qualities or experience make you qualified for the position you are running for?

I have honestly never before held a finance position in student government, but I am prepared to devote my time and effort to learning how to best serve the student body and to carrying my responsibilities as a finance representative. My time on student council in high school has prepared me to understand and properly react to the needs of students.

How will you improve Colorado College through a Full Council position?

As a finance representative, I want to work with others to improve the distribution of funding among clubs and other campus groups. My financial goal is to allocate the limited resources we have in the way that best serves the entire student body.

Austin Miller

What qualities or experience make you qualified for the position you are running for?

What has prepared me for the finance committee really began in 1st grade when I developed my foundation of an innate ability to work with numbers. While some may dread the idea of a math class or excel spreadsheet tedium, they are environments in which I thrive. As a high school student I was a school prefect with the specific role of being in charge of our finances of the programs we developed and ran. Working in this role taught me the importance of budgeting funds in order to provide activities throughout the year. As a prefect and now an RA of the Outdoor Education Special interest Community I have dealt with the challenge of working with a limited budget providing me with previous experience to advise student groups on the best way to improve proposals so that events can be efficient with CCSGA funding allowing more to occur.

How will you improve Colorado College through a Full Council position?

As a member of the finance committee I would do my best to represent the entire student body's interest. One of the issues currently facing the student body is a lack of viable alternatives for students to the house party scene off campus. I would encourage and work with groups that provide underclass students with real alternatives to going to senior houses on the weekends. More themed parties on campus and concerts at the Carriage House would not only develop a healthy environment for students relax after a hard week of class, it would relieve the pressure placed on senior houses and their neighbor relations. This is just one of the many ways in which I would like to improve Colorado College for the students through my work on the finance committee.

Anubrat Prasai

What qualities or experience make you qualified for the position you are running for?

I studied accounting, tax, economics, financial management among others for a year in India. Therefore, I am aware of the financial terms and system that is generally followed and if there is a difference in the US then it would still be easier for me to adapt due to the basic knowledge gained through my experience in India.

I also managed various clubs during and after my high school where I took the responsibility of organizing fundraising events, budget allocation, sustainable investment and event management.

How will you improve Colorado College through a Full Council position?

Financial stability, unbiased and proper allocation of the budget and responsible spending are the characters that make any organization effective and strong and I, as one of the finance representatives, will make sure that the Student government, the organizations it supports and the event it organizes or helps organize are well funded. Also, I will make sure that the financial

flow is well documented and any possible financial crisis is accounted for well in advance. Furthermore, through better management of the funds, I will bring new programs and projects for the college and the students while simultaneously improving the quality of the existing programs. Another one of my key focuses will be maintaining transparency and keeping students and administration well informed about the financial standing of the Student Government.

Karen Rojaspalacios

What qualities or experience make you qualified for the position you are running for?

As cliché as it may sound, I am a person with a strong sense of responsibility, commitment, and honesty. I am running for the finance representative because I have experience in this kind of field. Throughout high school, I was treasurer of different clubs. I gained a lot of experience then about how to budget and handle money. And even though the budget at CC is larger than anything I have ever helped handle before, I am not intimidated by it. I will do my best to learn anything I need to in order to do my job correctly and fairly.

How will you improve Colorado College through a Full Council position?

This position would open new doors for me in terms of gaining leadership and starting to get involved with school events. I'd love to be able to help organize and prepare for events that show the importance of the improvement of CC's diversity aspects and community involvement.

Allie Verchota

What qualities or experience make you qualified for the position you are running for?

I am planning on majoring in Mathematics and thoroughly enjoy being fiscally responsible. I am a first-year RA in Slocum Hall, therefore I understand staying within a budget when planning programs and allocating funds. I am also an active member of the Student Alumni Association, which is working on strengthening and continuing our relationship with the CC Alumni and friends through events and other collaborative efforts. These Alumni connections could be useful when applying for other financial grants. I strive to be fully cognizant of activities and happenings both on and off campus. As an active participant, I fully dedicate myself to the task at hand, providing an optimistic and open-minded approach to each situation. Finally, as a sophomore I am familiar with which programs/events are of high priority to our CC community and could provide a fresh take on how funds could be used more effectively.

How will you improve Colorado College through a Full Council position?

I would try to improve Colorado College as a member of the Financial Board by allocating funds among the student run clubs and events on campus more effectively. Hopefully, through this

effective allocation we can have more engaging and entertaining events that students and community members can participate in. Not only would these events showcase the college, but they would also allow students with many different interests and backgrounds to pursue their passions on a broader stage. This would create an inviting image for the Colorado Springs community and any potential students, ultimately increasing support for the college while connecting the student body as one.