

Executive Council Candidate Statement for Annika Kastetter

The student body at Colorado College is inspiring. While CC student interests are varied and unique, all students are united by their strong commitment to learning, a willingness to help others, a high level of global awareness, and a promise to pursue projects that will ultimately make the world a better place. Therefore, I wish to serve as the CCSGA Student Body President for the 2015-2016 year in order to give back to the campus community and student body that inspires me and to play an active role in representing the goals, voices, and concerns of the student body to both administration and the broader CC community.

In 2015-2016, I envision student government playing a greater, more proactive role in 'governance' of the student body as opposed to simply serving as a 'financing body.' This would involve CCSGA actively initiating campus-wide referendums to gauge student interest on certain matters with the ultimate goal of funding programs that cater to the full spectrum of student interests and concerns. This constant outreach by CCSGA representatives with the CC student body will improve the campus community and campus life for our broad array of students to ensure that the CC campus community remains a dynamic one. In addition, I believe it is essential to enhance transparency and communication between CCSGA and the student body to ensure that students are well informed about CCSGA processes, events, and matters. Building strong relationships between CCSGA and the student body will encourage students to become more engaged in CCSGA matters and be more inclined to participate in their system of governance.

At Colorado College I have been fortunate to experience a variety of smaller communities within the larger CC community. As a Resident Advisor in Bemis Hall I have connected with sophomore and junior residents, and I have bonded with freshmen residents while working desk shifts in Loomis. Serving as an RA has been the most rewarding part of my Colorado College experience thus far, primarily because it has allowed me to meet and interact with a wide variety of students in a more intimate setting. The RA position has taught me how to listen to students' concerns and problems, and how to subsequently create a plan to address the issues at hand. As an RA I have gained a greater awareness of campus life, the resources available to students, and the areas of campus life that students would like to see changed or improved.

In addition to being an RA, I am involved in multiple sketch comedy groups on campus, I serve as a representative on the honor council, I helped start and write for a campus satirical newspaper, I am on the women's club soccer team and will be serving as captain next season, and I hold two additional on campus jobs. My involvement in this range of activities and my leadership positions within some of them has allowed me to engage with a variety of students and to better understand what kinds of things *matter* to them. My strong ties to diverse communities within the larger CC community will allow me to effectively represent and act on expressed student concerns and ideas. Finally, although I have not served as a student government representative in the past, I believe that my fresh perspective will benefit CCSGA if I am elected to serve as student body President.

Currently, my greatest concern on campus is striving to create a more diverse and inclusive environment for all CC students. To improve CC's climate of diversity and inclusion it is essential that more time and resources be devoted towards programs

emphasizing social justice, equality, intercultural exchange, and empowerment. Greater funding should be allocated to fund programs that help foster diversity at CC so that students from all backgrounds feel appreciated and feel confident they can experience success at Colorado College. Improving these conditions will significantly enhance the vibrant dynamic and sense of community on CC's campus and will provide all students with more opportunities to experience rich backgrounds and perspectives that are different than their own.