

Executive Council Candidate Statement for Hannah Willstein '16

As a junior looking back on my college experience so far, I have much to be grateful for. Colorado College is a magical place in my heart, and I firmly believe in leaving something better than you found it. This is why I am running for a position on the Colorado College Student Government Association Executive Council. CCSGA is a huge part of student life on campus, and I want to make it more accessible and transparent for students. Many Colorado College students feel that CCSGA does very little for the average student and I want to change this mindset.

If elected, I would add a fresh perspective to CCSGA. Student interests would be in the forefront of my mind when bringing ideas to the table. A major goal of mine is to increase the efficiency of CCSGA on our campus. I would strive to make full council meetings more productive and timely so more issues could be addressed. Colorado College students are not passive, and an equally as passionate and organized student government should be able to govern them.

As President of Delta Gamma I have experience running efficient weekly meetings and overseeing all aspects of an organization's programming from social events to disciplinary hearings. Helping constituents is something I do every week while interning for US Senator Michael Bennet's Colorado Springs Office. Writing resolutions and legislation is something I enjoy and have been practicing for many years in Model United Nations and Model Arab League. Problem solving in teams or small groups is something I excel at, and enjoy doing on sports teams as well as in my role as a wilderness trip leader for high school students. I am an avid intramural athlete who thoroughly enjoys a good broomball game. Organization is one of my strong suits as well as getting tasks done in a timely manner. I am open to new ideas and am always willing to meet up to hear one.

Most members of the student body do not know what CCSGA does which I think says a lot about communication and engagement on our campus. Students of Colorado College seem frustrated with the administration making decisions on how to further Colorado College without a lot of student input. The lack of transparency between parties has made students feel powerless over the future of CC. I want to work with both parties and move towards harmony on our campus by opening up lines of communication. If implemented effectively, CCSGA programming could be a great middleman between the students and administration. CCSGA should work towards making students feel like Colorado College is a safe space. A student who has been sexually assaulted, or has a mental health disorder should know about, as well as feel comfortable using their campus resources. Town hall style meetings between the students, administration, and outside community of Colorado Springs appear like a great way to have the opinions of both sides heard. I think CCSGA could be more efficient with its time internally, which would create time to discover ways to empower students to take control of their college life.

My energy is contagious and I look forward to bringing dynamic and original ideas to the floor. I will be a voice for my peers and work so that nothing

should get in the way of a driven student and their dreams of furthering their Colorado College experience. CC has done so much for me, and I want to return the favor by serving on the Executive Council for the 2015-2016 school year.