

Annika Kastetter, Student Body President Statement of Interest

The Colorado College community is one of vibrancy, passion, and opportunity. The foundation of the College lies in an invigorated student body that is committed to learning, critical thought, a genuine willingness to help others, outstanding global awareness, and the goal of ultimately making the world a better place. While our school is endowed with phenomenal resources, people, and opportunities, there are certain challenges that have arisen on our campus and other college campuses around the country that must be met with critical discussion and substantive change. Therefore, I wish to serve as the CCSGA Student Body President for the 2016-2017 year to confront the challenges that our college community faces, to unite the Colorado College community toward the common goal of fostering a safe, diverse, and inclusive environment, and to ensure that Colorado College continues to support and empower all students in their social, academic, and emotional endeavors.

My greatest concerns on campus are: ensuring the safety and health of our students—particularly in the area of sexual assault and mental health awareness; enhancing the structure and amount of resources devoted to diversity and inclusion initiatives on campus; and finally, developing a greater relationship of trust and communication between Administration, the Board of Trustees, and the student body.

With regards to the issue of sexual misconduct, it is imperative that the College builds upon its existing structure for outreach and prevention initiatives while bolstering its network of support and resources for survivors. I propose that the strongest ways to implement this change is through first, expanding the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator position into a ‘team’ with multiple professionals devoted to education and outreach, student support, and trauma response as opposed to just one Sexual Assault Response Coordinator. Second, I think substantive changes need to be made to the current sexual misconduct policy at Colorado College to ensure that victims of sexual assault and intimate partner violence feel both protected by the policy and empowered to report when a violation has occurred. Finally, I think the college should increase funding for educational campaigns surrounding healthy sexuality and consent and should also continue support for student-led support groups for those affected by sexual assault or intimate partner violence.

On the issue of creating a more diverse and inclusive environment at Colorado College, I think the college and CCSGA should: first, continue to support discussion groups sponsored by the Butler Center to encourage critical discussion regarding the current climate surrounding diversity and inclusion on our campus; second, increase funding for alternative Block Break trips to ensure that Block Breaks are an *inclusive* experience for all rather than an exclusive experience based on socio-economic standing; third, work to increasing the diverse composition of faculty, staff, and administrative members at Colorado College; and finally, strive to ensure that *all* students who currently attend CC are adequately supported by financial aid and that we as an institution continue to work towards becoming ‘need-blind.’

Finally, I think it is imperative that CCSGA works to foster a greater relationship of trust between the student body, the Board of Trustees, and Administration. This can be achieved through hosting more interactive events with members of administration and the Board and student leaders on campus as well as increasing the level of communication between the administration, the Board, and the student body to ensure that all voices are heard and that progress is achieved through constructive collaboration from all parties.

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.' CCSGA should strive to not only fund, but also *collaborate* and *unite* with student groups to work toward overarching goals such as creating a more inclusive college environment for all CC students. CCSGA must remain transparent and engaged with the student body to ensure that students are well informed about CCSGA processes, events, and objectives.

Ultimately, although I have not served on CCSGA, my involvement in a variety of clubs, activities, employment positions, and leadership positions on campus such as serving as a returning Residential Advisor, an executive member of the Honor Council, a representative on the President's Council, a former DIALogue member, an FYE mentor, the head of Women in Comedy, have all shaped my diverse understanding of the Colorado College community. It is my meaningful ties to the student body, my proven commitment to ensuring that students at Colorado College feel supported and empowered, and my devotion to the Colorado College community and ensuring that our institution continues down a path of greatness that qualifies me to serve as Student Body President. I look forward to the opportunity to work with students, faculty, staff, Administration, and the Board to ensure that the trend of excellence at Colorado College continues.