

Trey Curtis- Brown

Candidate Biography

Please provide a short biography about yourself.

Trey Curtis-Brown is a doctoral student in Public Policy and an MBA student at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. His academic work centers on workforce development, with a focus on addressing the misalignment between higher education and labor market needs and improving outcomes for graduate students as they transition into their careers.

As an active member of the graduate student community, Trey is deeply engaged in student governance and advocacy. He currently serves as the GPSA Representative for the MBA/EMBA program and as Executive Vice President of the MBA Student Association. In these roles, he works closely with graduate students across disciplines to understand their experiences and identify opportunities to improve support systems, communication, and access to resources. His involvement has provided him with a broad perspective on the challenges graduate students face, including balancing academic responsibilities, professional development, and financial pressures.

Trey's experience as a graduate student shapes his approach to leadership. He understands the importance of having clear, accessible pathways to funding, career opportunities, and campus services. He also recognizes the need for stronger connections across graduate programs to reduce isolation and build a more cohesive graduate student community. Through his leadership roles, he has contributed to initiatives that support student engagement, professional growth, and collaboration across programs.

In addition to his academic and student leadership work, Trey serves as the Administrative Program Coordinator for the Applied Health Sciences program within the School of Integrated Health Sciences. His professional experience further informs his understanding of how institutional systems impact student success and the importance of effective coordination across departments.

Trey remains committed to strengthening the graduate student experience at UNLV by improving access, communication, and opportunities that support students both during their programs and beyond graduation.

Candidate Motivations or Platform Summary

Explain why you are interested in serving in this position.

What goals do you hope to achieve, or issues do you plan to address? How will you advance the mission of GPSA?

I am interested in serving as GPSA President to strengthen how the organization represents, supports, and advocates for graduate and professional students at UNLV. As a doctoral student in Public Policy and an MBA student, I understand the demands of graduate education and the need for stronger systems that support student success both during and after their programs. My goal is to ensure GPSA is visible, effective, and directly responsive to student needs.

My platform focuses on four key areas. Expanding professional development is a priority. Graduate students should have greater access to internships, research opportunities, and career pathways that align with their long-term goals. GPSA can play a more active role in connecting students to these opportunities and supporting their transition into the workforce.

Stronger representation across UNLV is also essential. Graduate students should feel that their voices are heard and reflected in university decision-making. I will work to improve communication between GPSA and the broader graduate student population to ensure concerns, feedback, and priorities are consistently represented.

Graduate assistant advocacy is another critical focus. Graduate assistants contribute significantly to the university through teaching, research, and service. They should be supported with clear policies, fair practices, and accessible resources that reflect the value of their work.

Finally, I am committed to strengthening support for graduate and student families and housing. Many graduate students balance academic responsibilities with family obligations and housing challenges. GPSA should advocate for resources and partnerships that better support students in these areas.

These priorities directly advance the mission of GPSA by promoting student interests, supporting academic success, and fostering a stronger sense of community. My approach to leadership is grounded in execution and accountability. I am committed to delivering measurable improvements that enhance the graduate student experience and ensure GPSA remains a strong advocate for all graduate and professional students at UNLV.

Candidate Qualifications/ Experience

Please share any relevant experience or qualifications you have for the position.

I bring extensive experience in student government, university committees, and graduate student leadership that has prepared me to effectively serve as GPSA President.

At UNLV, I currently serve as the GPSA Representative for the MBA/EMBA program, where I advocate for graduate student interests and serve on the Ways & Means Committee. I also serve as Executive Vice President of the MBA Student Association, supporting organizational leadership, programming, and student engagement across the graduate business community. In addition, I serve on the Student Tuition and Fees Committee and the Ombuds Office Committee, where I contribute to conversations that directly impact student costs, resources, and institutional accountability.

My broader student leadership experience includes serving as a four-time elected Senator in the Consolidated Students of UNLV (CSUN), where I chaired multiple committees, authored over 30 pieces of legislation, and helped oversee a \$2 million budget. I have also held leadership roles across numerous university committees, including the UNLV Parking Advisory Committee, where I served as chair, co-chair, and vice chair, as well as the University Commencement Committee, Minority Serving Institution initiatives, and a President's Mental Health task force. These roles have provided direct experience in governance, budgeting, policy development, and student advocacy across institutional levels .

In addition to student leadership, I currently serve as the Administrative Program Coordinator for the Applied Health Sciences program at UNLV. In this role, I manage program operations, coordinate student engagement initiatives, and work across Academic Affairs and Student Affairs to support recruitment, retention, and student success. I also previously served as an Academic Advisor, supporting a large and diverse student population, which strengthened my ability to understand student needs and navigate institutional systems.

I also bring experience as an instructor and graduate assistant, further reinforcing my commitment to student success and academic engagement.

My combined experience across student government, university committees, and professional roles has prepared me to lead with organization, accountability, and a clear focus on representing and supporting graduate students at UNLV.

Nehemiah Afam Chukwuere

Candidate Biography

Please provide a short biography about yourself.

My name is Nehemiah Afam Chukwuere. I am a graduate student at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV), currently pursuing my Master of Business Administration at UNLV and graduated with a Master of Science degree in Construction and Infrastructure Management from UNLV in Fall 2025. Having an interdisciplinary academic background in engineering, management, and policy-oriented research, my academic work is heavily influenced by my analytical and leadership-driven orientation to graduate student advocacy and service.

At UNLV, my service as a Graduate Assistant in the Graduate College's RPC unit involves my contribution to graduate student affairs as well as my support for various graduate student service processes. As part of my shared governance contributions, I serve as an Ex-officio Member of the UNLV Graduate Program Committee as a GPSA Representative, as well as being actively involved with student organizations such as my service on the Constitution Committee of the African Student Alliance and as Communication Liaison for the International Student Organization.

I am strongly dedicated to improving the graduate student experience through service and involvement. I am a Grad Rebel Ambassador (2025-2026), a panelist to advise new graduate students, and a presenter for the UNLV B.R.I.D.G.E. Program, helping to demystify the graduate student experience for incoming students. My service to the community includes volunteering with the National MS Society's "Dinner of Champions" and university-wide events such as Homecoming.

As a distinguished scholar and writer, I am the recipient of the GPSA Sponsorship Research Award (2026), the Patricia Sastaunik Scholarship (2025), and the Rebel Grad Slam 3MT Semi-Final Audience Award. My research interests lie in construction systems, infrastructure delivery, and providing relevant findings to the industry, including research in Design Build, modular construction, and data-driven safety analysis.

Outside of UNLV, I am the President of Leadspire Institute, which focuses on leadership development and workforce readiness programs for hundreds of emerging leaders. My background includes project engineering, infrastructure operations, and program development in the United States and Nigeria.

With my background in leadership, governance, and student engagement, I am committed to serving as the GPSA Vice President to enhance representation, provide more opportunities for graduate students, and build a more inclusive and effective graduate student community at UNLV.

Candidate Motivations or Platform Summary

Explain why you are interested in serving in this position.

What goals do you hope to achieve, or issues do you plan to address? How will you advance the mission of GPSA?

My interest in running for the Vice President role in the Graduate & Professional Student Association (GPSA) is driven by my experiences as a graduate student and my commitment to institutional leadership. As a graduate student pursuing my MBA and having graduated with a Master of Science in Construction and Infrastructure Management at UNLV, I have encountered the various challenges that graduate students often face. However, my experiences as a Graduate Assistant in the Graduate College and my role as a GPSA Representative on the Graduate Program Committee have given me a clear understanding of the opportunities available for graduate students.

My vision for GPSA, if elected, is to improve graduate student representation and ensure that the graduate student voice is integrated into the institutional decision-making process. This will be achieved by improving communication channels between GPSA and the graduate student body through the implementation of feedback mechanisms. I also intend to improve graduate students' access to funding opportunities by advocating for increased awareness and fair distribution of available funding such as research grants, sponsorships, and emergency funding.

The other significant priority is the creation of a stronger community feeling among graduate and professional students. Therefore, I strive to create opportunities that allow students to network and build a community feeling. This is based on my experiences as a Grad Rebel Ambassador, B.R.I.D.G.E. Program presenter, and student panelist. I have learned that there is a significant need to build a community feeling, especially among international and first-generation students. In line with GPSA's mission of supporting academic endeavors and providing an environment that is conducive to scholarship and research, I strive to support initiatives that are beneficial in the creation of an environment that is conducive to academic and professional success.

At my core, I am dedicated to supporting and furthering the mission of GPSA through strong representation, community building, and ensuring all graduate students at UNLV have access to the resources and opportunities that will allow them to succeed. I believe that strong leadership is collaborative, data-driven, and service-oriented, and I look forward to making a lasting impact.

Candidate Qualifications/ Experience

Please share any relevant experience or qualifications you have for the position.

I have a unique blend of leadership, institutional involvement, research engagement, and professional expertise that enables me to effectively contribute to the Graduate & Professional Student Association (GPSA) as Vice President. Currently, I am a GPSA Representative on the Graduate Program Committee as an Ex-Officio Member at UNLV. In this capacity, I have gained direct experience in shared governance and have been involved in discussions and decisions that affect graduate education policy and program standards. Furthermore, my work with the African Student Alliance Constitution Committee and the Communication Liaison with the International Student Organization have provided me with an opportunity to work with diverse student populations and effectively represent them.

In my capacity as a Graduate Assistant for the Graduate College at UNLV, specifically in the unit of RPC, I am responsible for managing graduate student academic matters, facilitating compliance activities, and assisting in program implementation. This role has given me a profound understanding of graduate student systems, processes, and the various challenges they are facing, thus allowing me to become a leader with compassion and understanding.

My leadership experience has been extensive, not only within the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, but also in my role as the President of Leadspire Institute, overseeing strategy, governance, and program implementation for various leadership development programs for hundreds of young leaders. Additionally, my role as Director has given me experience in overseeing large-scale training programs, curriculum development, and managing cross-functional teams, thus allowing me to possess the required skills for an executive role such as GPSA Vice President.

I have also been actively involved in service and student development programs at UNLV, such as being a Grad Rebel Ambassador, a panelist for new graduate students, and a presenter for the B.R.I.D.G.E. Program. This showcases my dedication to providing mentorship and a supportive graduate student community.

In terms of academic credentials, I have a strong research background with publications in the fields of modular construction, infrastructure systems, and data-driven safety analysis. I have received the GPSA Sponsorship Research Award (2026), the Patricia Sastaunik Scholarship (2025), and the Rebel Grad Slam 3MT Semi-Finalist (Audience Award), highlighting my academic prowess and ability to communicate my research.

In conclusion, my experience in leadership, governance, service, and research makes me uniquely qualified to advocate for and represent graduate and professional students at UNLV.

Refat Rasul Srejon

Candidate Biography

Please provide a short biography about yourself.

Refat Rasul Srejon is a dedicated public health practitioner and PhD candidate in Social and Behavioral Health at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV). He holds a Master of Public Health from New Mexico State University and a medical degree from Bangladesh, bringing a unique integration of clinical knowledge and population-level health expertise. His academic and professional work is driven by a strong commitment to reducing health disparities and improving outcomes among marginalized and underserved populations through evidence-based research, behavioral interventions, and community engagement.

Refat has served as a research and graduate assistant on multiple federally and institutionally funded projects, where he developed strong skills in study design (quantitative and mixed methods), data analysis, program evaluation and scientific writing. He has also contributed to the scholarly community by reviewing manuscripts for respected journals, including Elsevier's Journal of Medicine, Surgery, and Public Health, The Microbe Journal and Sage's Progress in Transplantation .

In addition to his research roles, Refat has demonstrated leadership and service as a UNLV Graduate Ambassador, where he supports students from diverse backgrounds and promotes academic success through mentorship and outreach initiatives. He is an active member of the American Public Health Association (APHA), SOPHE, NPHA and has been inducted into prestigious honor societies, including Phi Kappa Phi and Delta Omega. Earlier in his career as a practicing physician, he led numerous free medical camps and organized blood donation drives, experiences that shaped his enduring commitment to advancing health equity at both local and global levels.

Candidate Motivations or Platform Summary

Explain why you are interested in serving in this position.

What goals do you hope to achieve, or issues do you plan to address? How will you advance the mission of GPSA?

I am interested in serving as Vice President because I am deeply committed to supporting the academic success, well-being, and professional development of graduate and professional students at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. As a current GPSA Council Representative for the Social and Behavioral Health (SBH) program, I have gained firsthand experience representing student concerns, participating in policy discussions, and collaborating with fellow representatives to improve the graduate student experience. Additionally, as a doctoral student and Graduate Ambassador, I have worked closely with students from diverse academic, cultural, and socioeconomic backgrounds, which has given me a clear understanding of the challenges graduate students face, including funding insecurity, research pressures, and the need for stronger community engagement.

Through this role, I hope to advocate for increased access to financial support, research resources, and professional development opportunities for graduate students. Many students, particularly international and first-generation scholars, face barriers related to funding, mentorship, and navigating institutional systems. I aim to address these issues by promoting transparent communication between students and university leadership and by supporting initiatives that expand travel grants, research funding, and mental health resources.

I also hope to strengthen the sense of community among graduate and professional students by encouraging interdisciplinary collaboration, networking events, and inclusive programming. Creating spaces where students feel supported both academically and personally is essential to fostering a productive and welcoming scholarly environment.

By actively listening to student concerns, representing their interests, and contributing to policy discussions, I will work to advance the mission of GPSA. My goal is to help ensure that GPSA continues to serve as a strong advocate for graduate students while promoting an environment that supports scholarship, research excellence, and student well-being across the UNLV community.

Candidate Qualifications/ Experience

Please share any relevant experience or qualifications you have for the position.

I bring a combination of leadership, research, and service experience that has prepared me well for a leadership role within the Graduate and Professional Student Association. I currently serve as a GPSA Council Representative for the Social and Behavioral Health (SBH) program, where I represent student concerns, participate in council meetings, and contribute to discussions on policies and initiatives affecting graduate students. This role has given me direct experience in student governance, collaborative decision-making, and advocating for the needs of my peers. In addition, I serve as a UNLV Graduate Ambassador, supporting prospective and current students through outreach, mentorship, and campus engagement activities. This position has strengthened my communication, public speaking, and peer-support skills while allowing me to interact with students from diverse academic and cultural backgrounds.

My academic and professional experience as a doctoral student in public health has further developed my abilities in project coordination, data-driven decision-making, and working in interdisciplinary teams. I have worked as a research and graduate assistant on multiple funded projects, which required organization, time management, and the ability to balance competing priorities skills that are essential for an executive leadership role.

Beyond campus, my background as a physician and community volunteer has shaped my commitment to service, equity, and advocacy. I have organized free medical camps and blood donation drives, experiences that strengthened my leadership, teamwork, and community engagement skills. Together, these experiences have equipped me with the leadership, organizational, and advocacy skills necessary to effectively serve and represent graduate and professional students in this position.

Rachel Dewald

Candidate Biography

Please provide a short biography about yourself.

As a fourth year graduate student in the Psychological and Brain Sciences Department, my research focuses on autistic emotions and communication. Central to my work is the belief that autistic communication is not a deviance from a norm, but a distinct communication style. Autistic voices and experiences deserve to be centered in that conversation rather than treated as a puzzle to be solved. This perspective shapes not only how I approach my research but everything I do.

Being involved has always been important to me, not only at UNLV. I am a founding member of the Society for Research in Child Development disability caucus, and a founding board member of Radiant Springs Arts and Science Innovation School here in Las Vegas. When I can find time (and it isn't too hot!), I hike with my kids and with my two dogs, Drake and Leo. I am excited for this opportunity and would love to be a part of GPSA Executive Board to continue supporting students and being an active part of the UNLV community.

Candidate Motivations or Platform Summary

Explain why you are interested in serving in this position.

What goals do you hope to achieve, or issues do you plan to address? How will you advance the mission of GPSA?

The role of GPSA secretary is a natural next step for me. My role as President and Vice President in the Psychological and Brain Sciences student council (PBSSC) have shown me firsthand how much graduate students contribute to this university and the role that student government can play in advocacy and support. Graduate students teach undergraduates, conduct research that keeps UNLV an R1 institution, and take on work that often goes unrecognized. I feel like GPSA is where I can take my experience in PBSSC further and do more for graduate students across the university as a whole.

I am drawn to the secretary role specifically because I believe that organization and communication are what allow a group like GPSA to actually function. When the president and vice president can walk into a meeting knowing that documentation is handled, that records are accurate, and that follow-through is being managed, they can focus on leadership without worry. Building that foundation matters to me. I am intentional about how I work and organize, and I believe the secretary role would be a perfect fit.

The part of this role that excites me most is the opportunity to communicate what GPSA does to the broader graduate student body, not just to members who are already engaged with the group. Graduate students are busy. They balance coursework, research, teaching, networking, and still try to maintain a life outside of work. They don't always have the bandwidth to follow organizational proceedings. My goal is to make sure that when GPSA accomplishes something that affects students' lives, students actually know about it and understand why it matters to them specifically.

I care deeply about issues like graduate assistant workload and mental health support because these are areas that impact the day-to-day reality of graduate student life. When GPSA makes meaningful progress for students, that progress is worth communicating clearly in ways that reach students, whether that is email and social media. GPSA is doing meaningful work, and I want to be part of that. It matters to me to help build a university that is better for the students who come after us.

Candidate Qualifications/ Experience

Please share any relevant experience or qualifications you have for the position.

I currently serve as President of the Psychological and Brain Sciences Student Council (PBSSC), a role I took on after serving as Vice President. I also coordinate two of our department programs: the Outreach Undergraduate Mentorship Program (OUMP) and IDEAS, our department DEI committee. Through OUMP I connect undergraduates with mentors who share similar backgrounds and needs, with a focus on professional development and their careers after graduation. Through IDEAS we work across a range of student and faculty needs, setting goals each semester to advance equity within the department and taking concrete steps toward those goals. Current efforts include developing more equitable hiring and graduate application processes, expanding professional development opportunities, and building accessible resources for students who may be struggling.

Prior to OUMP, my graduate assistantship was as lab manager of the Baby and Child Rebel Lab, where I managed the schedules and workload of more than ten undergraduate research assistants across multiple research projects at any given time. I ran regular lab meetings, maintained communication across faculty, graduate students, and undergraduates, and managed our social media and website. That experience gave me a strong foundation in keeping a large group of people informed and on the same page.

That foundation carried directly into my work with OUMP and IDEAS, and I think it is what prepared me most for the secretary role. Two years of facilitating IDEAS meetings taught me that good documentation does not end when the meeting does. I go back into my minutes after the fact to add links for any resources mentioned during the meetings, and when someone raises an idea during the comment period I make sure to follow up with them directly to make sure their contribution is captured fully. My goal is always that the minutes I distribute provide a complete picture, so that students and faculty never have to go outside that communication from me to find what they need. Through my work as PBSSC president and as the student representative to faculty meetings, I have developed familiarity with Robert's Rules of Order and Nevada Open Meeting Law, albeit not as strong as I would like to be, however, I am committed to being fully up to date on both before the start of the term.

Alfa Montiel

Candidate Biography

Please provide a short biography about yourself.

I identify as a queer non-binary Mexican graduate student. I immigrated from Mexico to Las Vegas at the age of four and completed my public education within the Clark County School District (CCSD). At the age of 27, I received a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder.

After earning a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from UNLV, I worked as a Specialized Programs Teaching Assistant (SPTA) in an Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) and Primary Autism classroom at a Title I school. Later, I got my Master's degree in ECSE, also at UNLV. Then I taught for two years in a Primary Autism classroom at a different Title I school. While teaching, I also mentored the temporary substitutes in the Intermediate Autism classroom, the teacher in the KIDS program, and provided assistance to the students. I continue to volunteer at that school by providing help to the current special education teachers and students.

I currently work as a graduate research assistant in the Department of Early Childhood, Multilingual, and Special Education with Dr. Sarah Surrain. I am pursuing a Ph.D. in Special Education with a focus on the experiences of autistic children and their families. My goal is to uplift their voices and acknowledge that no group is a monolith. As an immigrant Latine individual, my experiences differ from others in my community due to the unique intersections of my identities.

Candidate Motivations or Platform Summary

Explain why you are interested in serving in this position.

What goals do you hope to achieve, or issues do you plan to address? How will you advance the mission of GPSA?

I am interested in serving in this position to help graduate students, drawing on my experience mentoring fellow educators during my teaching career. I wish to advocate for graduate students just as I actively advocate for autistic children and their families through direct interaction and through my research. Through my role as a Student Representative for the College of Education Graduate Studies Committee, I have gained a deep understanding of the importance of fostering community and advancing the university's mission to create a welcoming environment for graduate students. I value the opportunity to promote engagement and contribute to academic success, ensuring every student feels supported and connected.

My undergraduate studies in Political Science provided me with insight into the significance of governing bodies within educational institutions. I am committed to encouraging active involvement among graduate students and ensuring everyone remains informed about important developments and decisions. I believe that transparent communication and participation are essential for building a vibrant academic community. As an autistic graduate student, I will also advocate for other students with disabilities by ensuring their voices are heard.

I am interested in the secretary position because of my previous experience as the Recording Secretary for the Gamma Phi Beta Sorority at UNLV, where I was responsible for recording meeting minutes, creating and distributing emails, and managing attendance records. This experience allowed me to effectively support the executive board and advocate for members' concerns within the organization. Having completed all of my higher education at UNLV, I am dedicated to continuing my support for both the university and its students, and I look forward to contributing meaningfully to the team.

Candidate Qualifications/ Experience

Please share any relevant experience or qualifications you have for the position.

I am currently serving as a Student Representative for the College of Education Graduate Studies Committee. I previously served as the Alumnae Relations Chairwoman, Administrative Vice President, Financial Vice President, and Recording Secretary of the Gamma Phi Beta Sorority at UNLV. Recently, I served as a Proposal Reviewer for the Division of Early Childhood (DEC) of the Council for Exceptional Children. I also speak, read, and write in English and Spanish.

Kimberly Welch

Candidate Biography

Please provide a short biography about yourself.

My name is Kimberly Welch, and I am a graduate student in the College of Education at UNLV, pursuing my master's degree in special education with a focus on Autism. I am currently a first-year Intermediate Autism teacher, working with students in grades three through five in a specialized classroom setting.

My work as an educator has shaped both my professional skills and my values. Every day, I support students with diverse needs by creating structured, inclusive environments where they can succeed. This includes developing individualized supports, collaborating with multidisciplinary teams, and maintaining detailed documentation to ensure each student receives the services they need. Through this work, I have developed strong skills in organization, communication, and accountability.

Balancing full-time teaching while completing graduate school has strengthened my time management, adaptability, and ability to stay organized under pressure. I take pride in being dependable, meticulous, and consistent in my work.

Most importantly, my experience in special education has instilled in me a strong belief that every voice matters. I am enthusiastic about creating environments where individuals feel supported, heard, and represented. As a graduate student, I am excited to become more involved in the UNLV community and contribute to an organization that advocates for and supports students.

Candidate Motivations or Platform Summary

Explain why you are interested in serving in this position.

What goals do you hope to achieve, or issues do you plan to address? How will you advance the mission of GPSA?

Clarity. Communication. Accountability.

I am running for GPSA Secretary because these three principles are essential to a strong, effective, and student-centered organization. The Secretary role is not simply about taking notes—it is about ensuring that information is accurate, accessible, and reflective of the voices and needs of the graduate and professional student community.

One of my primary goals is to strengthen transparency and accessibility within GPSA. I will ensure that meeting agendas and minutes are posted in a timely manner and are clear, organized, and meaningful to students. When graduate students understand how decisions are made and how GPSA operates, they are better equipped to engage with and benefit from the organization as a resource.

I also aim to enhance communication and representation. GPSA plays a vital role in promoting and representing the interests of graduate and professional students, and that begins with clear, consistent communication. As Secretary, I will prioritize accurate documentation and accessible communication so that student perspectives are not only heard, but clearly reflected in discussions, decisions, and records.

In addition, I am committed to strengthening accountability and procedural integrity. By maintaining organized records, tracking attendance accurately, and supporting structured meetings through Robert's Rules of Order and Nevada Open Meeting Law, I will help ensure that GPSA operates in a fair, transparent, and responsible manner.

These goals directly support GPSA's mission to promote student interests, support academic endeavors, and foster a sense of community among graduate and professional students. As an educator in special education, advocacy, inclusion, and support are central to my work, and I am committed to bringing those same values into this role.

I am not running simply to fulfill a position—I am running to help ensure that GPSA continues to operate with clarity, purpose, and integrity, so that it can effectively support scholarship, research, and the overall success of its students.

Candidate Qualifications/ Experience

Please share any relevant experience or qualifications you have for the position.

My experience as a first-year Intermediate Autism teacher has prepared me well for the responsibilities of the GPSA Secretary.

In my role, I work in a structured, challenging environment where organization and accuracy are critical. I regularly document student progress, maintain detailed records, and communicate with a variety of stakeholders, including teachers, administrators, specialists, and families. This has strengthened my ability to manage information clearly, meet deadlines, and ensure accuracy—skills that directly align with preparing agendas, recording meeting minutes, and maintaining GPSA records.

I am also experienced in balancing multiple responsibilities. Managing a classroom while completing my graduate program requires strong time management, organization, and consistency. I plan ahead, stay organized, and follow through on commitments.

Additionally, I have experience working within systems that require adherence to procedures and guidelines. While I continue to build my knowledge of Robert's Rules of Order and Nevada Open Meeting Law, I am committed to learning and applying these frameworks to ensure meetings are organized, fair, and compliant.

Beyond technical skills, I bring a strong commitment to communication, collaboration, and inclusivity. I believe every voice matters, and I am dedicated to ensuring that information is documented accurately and shared clearly so that all students feel represented.

What I bring to this role is not just skill, but reliability, attention to detail, and genuine commitment to doing the work well.

Kalyani G

Candidate Biography

Please provide a short biography about yourself.

I am currently pursuing my Master's degree in Finance at UNLV, and I am excited to apply for the Treasurer position within the student association. With over seven years of professional experience in finance, along with relevant certifications, I bring a strong foundation in financial management, budgeting, and accountability that aligns well with the responsibilities of this role.

Throughout my professional career, I have developed hands-on experience in managing financial records, preparing budgets, analyzing financial data, and ensuring compliance with organizational policies. My roles have required a high level of accuracy, transparency, and ethical responsibility, qualities that are essential for a Treasurer. I am comfortable working with financial reporting tools and have consistently demonstrated my ability to handle funds responsibly while maintaining clear and organized documentation.

In addition to my technical skills, I am highly detail-oriented and committed to maintaining integrity in all financial operations. I understand the importance of clear communication when it comes to presenting financial information to team members who may not have a finance background. I am confident in my ability to provide regular updates, prepare understandable financial reports, and support informed decision-making within the association.

As a graduate student, I am also eager to contribute to the student community by applying my knowledge in a meaningful way. Serving as Treasurer would allow me to not only support the organization's financial health but also gain valuable leadership experience while collaborating with peers. I am proactive, dependable, and motivated to ensure that the association's funds are managed efficiently and effectively.

I believe my academic background, professional experience, and strong sense of responsibility make me a strong candidate for this position. I would be honored to contribute to the success of the student association and uphold the trust placed in the Treasurer role.

Candidate Motivations or Platform Summary

Explain why you are interested in serving in this position.

What goals do you hope to achieve, or issues do you plan to address? How will you advance the mission of GPSA?

I am deeply interested in serving as Treasurer for GPSA because I see this role as an opportunity to combine my professional finance experience with meaningful service to the graduate student community at UNLV. As a Master's student in Finance with over seven years of industry experience, I am motivated to contribute my skills toward ensuring that student funds are managed responsibly, transparently, and in ways that directly benefit students.

One of my primary goals is to strengthen financial transparency and accessibility within GPSA. I want to ensure that all financial processes, reports, and funding decisions are clear and easy for students and organization members to understand. By providing regular, well-structured financial updates and simplifying reporting formats, I hope to build trust and encourage greater student engagement with GPSA activities and funding opportunities.

Another key goal is to optimize budgeting and resource allocation. I plan to carefully evaluate spending patterns and identify opportunities to allocate funds more effectively, ensuring that resources are directed toward programs and initiatives that have the greatest impact on graduate students. I am particularly interested in supporting academic, professional development, and wellness initiatives that enhance the overall graduate student experience.

I also aim to improve efficiency in financial processes by introducing organized systems and best practices I have developed during my professional career. This includes maintaining accurate records, streamlining reimbursement processes, and ensuring compliance with university policies. My attention to detail and commitment to accountability will help minimize errors and improve overall financial operations.

In advancing the mission of GPSA, I will focus on supporting initiatives that empower graduate students, promote inclusivity, and create opportunities for growth and collaboration. By ensuring that funds are managed ethically and strategically, I will help GPSA continue to serve as a strong advocate for graduate students at UNLV.

Overall, I am eager to bring my experience, dedication, and passion for finance to this role, and to make a positive, lasting impact on the graduate student community.

Candidate Qualifications/ Experience

Please share any relevant experience or qualifications you have for the position.

I have over seven years of professional experience in finance, where I developed strong skills in budgeting, financial reporting, data analysis, and maintaining accurate financial records. I also hold relevant finance certifications, which strengthen my understanding of financial systems, compliance, and best practices. My experience has taught me the importance of accuracy, transparency, and accountability when managing funds.

In addition to my professional background, I have been actively involved in student activities. I participated in the Cultural Secretary position process for the Indian Student Association (Maitri-UNLV) and have volunteered in several ISA Maitri events. Through these experiences, I contributed to event planning and coordination, while improving my teamwork and organizational skills.

I also bring leadership experience from my school days, where I served as the captain of a kabaddi team. This role helped me develop leadership, discipline, and decision-making skills, as well as the ability to work effectively with a team under pressure.

Overall, my finance experience, certifications, and involvement in student organizations have prepared me to take on responsibilities that require organization, reliability, and strong financial management.

Erick Ochoa

Candidate Biography

Please provide a short biography about yourself.

Mr. Erick Ochoa is a Senior Program Coordinator for Service Programs at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Prior to his time as a Sr. Program Coordinator, he used to be a graduate assistant at the office of Service Learning & Leadership. In his time since as Sr. Program Coordinator, Mr. Ochoa has been involved in the programming of thousands of service hours and opportunities for UNLV students, graduate and undergraduate, to participate in, helping and aiding UNLV students develop leadership, group management and facilitation skills all the while connecting and networking with various community partners across the Las Vegas Valley. In his time as Sr. Program Coordinator, Mr. Ochoa has been in charge of supervising and maintaining a chartered RSO with a budget of almost \$20,000 on a yearly basis. This work with budgeting involves reconciling purchases, ensuring proper, transparent and accurate usage of student fees funds for UNLV students to enjoy and get to benefit from.

Candidate Motivations or Platform Summary

Explain why you are interested in serving in this position.

What goals do you hope to achieve, or issues do you plan to address? How will you advance the mission of GPSA?

I am interested in this position because I am eager to develop my budget skills. Budgeting is a key and instrumental skill that helps maintain and fund the goals of any organization. I believe that not only will I develop that skill outside of a professional work setting, but that I come with the skillset that our UNLV GPSA can benefit from.

Candidate Qualifications/ Experience

Please share any relevant experience or qualifications you have for the position.

I have been employed in the office of Service Learning & Leadership in some way or capacity for the past 7 or so years. That means that I come with valuable institutional knowledge that will help student leadership navigate and traverse the complicated field of large bureaucracies such as that of a state institution that services upwards of 39,000 students.

Along with my almost-decade of experience, I also come with just as many years in budgeting experience as well, meaning I know how to navigate, spend and be fiscally responsible and transparent with budgets of upwards of \$20,000 a year.