

**CSUN**

**UNLVCSUN**  
STUDENT GOVERNMENT

**CSUN**

# **EXECUTIVE ELECTION**

## **VOTER'S GUIDE**

[WWW.UNLV.EDU/CSUN](http://WWW.UNLV.EDU/CSUN)

4505 S. MARYLAND PKWY, LAS VEGAS, NV 89154

STUDENT UNION ROOM 316

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**SPRING 2021**

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# ABOUT CSUN

CSUN is UNLV's Undergraduate Student Government! As representatives of the undergraduate student body, they work hard to create a thriving campus community and to enhance each student's college experience.

CSUN is composed of three branches:  
Executive, Legislative and Judicial.

The Mission of the Consolidated Students of the University of Nevada is to empower student leadership, to advocate for the enhancement of the student experience, to provide for fiscally responsible decisions, meaningful dialogue, and demonstrate continued commitment to sharing the student voice.

**Executive elections take place every spring semester.**

The Executive Board is composed of the Student Body President, Student Body Vice-President and the Senate President. The Executive Branch oversees all CSUN activities including marketing efforts, elections, and legislative lobbying trips. The CSUN Executive Branch consists of the Executive Board along with the Attorney General, and Chief of Staff. The Executive Branch is also made up of all Directors, Associate Directors, and Assistant Directors assigned to various departments within CSUN.

## **CANDIDATE PROFILES FOR PRESIDENT**





## BIOGRAPHY

Vanessa Marie Booth is an American-Romanian 1st-generation student in the UNLV Honors College studying for her B.A. in Political Science with a minor in Brookings: Public Policy. She currently serves as News Editor for the UNLV Free Press, represents the College of Liberal Arts as a CSUN Senator and Vice-Chair of the Constitution & Bylaws Committee, a Policy Researcher for Brookings Mountain West & The Lincy Institute, is a World Wildlife Fund Ambassador, OUR Researcher, a previous Board Member for Yes On 1 Nevada, former Intern at the U.S. Office of Congresswoman Susie Lee, former State Representative for SkillsUSA Nevada, previous NBC News Ambassador, among many other things. Alongside balancing academics, extracurriculars, and her social life, Vanessa is most notable for her several public service awards, published research, and student lobbying impacts for lower-income communities. In 2020-2021, Vanessa was nationally recognized as a White House Presidential Service Scholar, McNair Scholar, U.S. Congressional Awardee, and at UNLV, an Outstanding Emerging Leader among the student body. In Vanessa's free time, you can find her spending time with her family and younger sister Sophia or volunteering with Hero School, a homelessness intervention program to assist those most in need.

## GOAL STATEMENT

Through CSUN student government I have found that my biggest passion is serving others and turning visions into reality. Learning of how difficult this past year has been for all UNLV students, I believe it's time that UNLV live up to its true potential by implementing student-focused initiatives and bringing our university together as a community again. In my time of service, I have lobbied for student issues, passed various resolutions in the Senate, and built a strong track record of work that is just the beginning of what our campaign will accomplish once we take office. As your next Student Body President, my plans are to implement student-focused projects like reinstating a new school mascot, abolishing many of the excessive student fees that create economic hardship, and bring more transparency and accountability to NSHE. Some projects I plan to implement are a CSUN Volunteer Program, reforming the CSUN Judicial Counsel, establishing scholarship pay for undocumented students, among many other things. Bringing issues like diversity, equity, inclusion, and student success to the table will fulfill UNLV's future potential. To learn more about the Scarlet Spirit movement and how your vote will change UNLV, visit <http://www.thescarletspirit.com/>

**Vanessa Booth**  
**The Scarlet Spirit**



## BIOGRAPHY

I was born in Saudi Arabia and lived there for sometime before moving to the Philippines other places in the world. I love experiencing so many different identities and cultures and that's why I officially settled in Las Vegas in 2018. I have always inspired to become a CSUN Senator in my first year here and was appointed as a CSUN Senator in the 50th Session. I was then elected into the 51st session serving as the Vice-Chair of the Scholarship & Grants Committee. I am now serving as a Resident Assistant within Housing & Residential Life and a Peer Educator for the Student Diversity & Social Justice department. I also am and have been part of these organizations: American Heart Association, Advocates for Youth, Men of Color Alliance, and the Filipino American Student Association to advocate and educate the community through inclusivity, equity, and equality frameworks.

## GOAL STATEMENT

Ever since I came to UNLV, I have loved the diverse and culturally rich student body. Whenever someone needed help, I have always tried to be there for my friends, because my life motto is, "No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted". I have always tried to aid my peers through different experiences and positions I've held. Connecting students to resources to make sure that they are as successful as they can be. As well as advocating for their needs, I am a firm advocate for equality and equity in our society. Now I want to do the same for our student body. Our UNLV body needs to know there are resources out there and that their president is here for them to make sure that their voices are heard. I want to connect our students to resources, I want to connect students to each other, I want to connect our community.

**James Wright**  
**A Connected Future**





## BIOGRAPHY

Hi friends! My name is Caren Yap, a current Honors College Junior and Dutch Bros' fanatic with a major in Business Marketing and minors in Global Entrepreneurship and Brookings Public Policy!! From co-founding the RSO, iGNiTE, to serving on the Panhellenic Council as Executive Vice President, UNLV has inspired my commitment to advocate for students of all walks of life, especially on the NSHE level. As a Saudi born, Nevada raised Filipina, I've often found myself to be underrepresented in public service paths. That's why I joined CSUN as a lil' freshie intern and it's brought me on a journey filled with passion and motivation. From being appointed as a Lee Business School Senator to becoming the inaugural Chair of a brand new Senate Committee to now serving as the Senate President Pro Tempore, I've been able to increase accessibility and representation in CSUN. I went from a freshman intern in a cohort of six to running the program and expanding it to almost forty wonderful individuals. UNLV is made up of such passionate students who are capable of making impactful change and that's why I hope to become Student Body President, to make change accessible and progress possible.

## GOAL STATEMENT

Like all of you, I've experienced the struggle of increased student fees and quarantine-style learning. Now, more than ever, we need an Executive Board who have been and will continue to work tirelessly to support students through the pandemic. Along with my Vice President, I hope to delegate more funds towards direct student facing projects, like textbook vouchers and sanitizing stations. Secondly, within NSHE, I wish to ensure that UNLV is properly represented and transparency is encouraged. Whether that means collaborating with other NSHE institutions to promote civic engagement or hosting CSUN workshops on public comment/legislative affairs, I hope to increase visibility of Nevada's higher education governance and educate the student body about the importance of the Board of Regents. Finally, as we \*cross fingers\* hopefully transition into a less remote future, I ultimately wish to be an accessible President with an even more accessible team alongside me. From reinstating Presidents' Advisory Council meetings to dramatically increasing CSUN's update emails to continuing State of the Campus Addresses, I will do everything possible to ensure that your voices are not only heard, but acted upon.

**Caren Yap  
Yap Lugo**

## **CANDIDATE PROFILES FOR VICE PRESIDENT**



## BIOGRAPHY

Hi friends! My name is Naseem Eskander II Benjelloun. I was raised in Las Vegas as a first-generation American and a third-generation Dutch citizen. I'm a non-traditional student pursuing a Bachelor's and Masters of Arts in Political Science and a Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics. I came to UNLV quite young, right on the cusp of my 16th birthday. Having a chance to do so was pivotal in my development as a student and allowed me to foster such an immense and deep love for this University. Over these last two years or so I've had the opportunity to get involved as your CSUN Attorney General, an undergraduate researcher for the OUR, a proud student developer for this campus, and as the President of Active Minds, a mental health advocacy organization. Outside of my professional efforts, I am a substantial social science nerd, and in my free time, I choose to unwind by reading the fantastic work by my colleagues and professors in the Political Science department. Growing up on this campus, I feel like I have been able to do a lot, through CSUN, our lovely organizations, and as a student worker; but I know as your Vice President, we can do a lot more together.

## GOAL STATEMENT

Our student government is a fantastic institution. It exists as the only UNLV department composed of entirely just students, students like you, and students like me. But I know we can be so much more. As your Vice President, I plan to adopt and adhere to a CSUN Joint Vision & Assessment, bringing back core values, such as academic enrichment, sustainability, and collaboration to our institution. I hope to build on our legislative and administrative relationships because I know that if we don't speak up, decisions will be made without students like us. I hope to bring issues like poor governmental and environmental sustainability, lack of accountability, and professionalism, undocumented student rights, and student surcharges to the forefront of this executive branch. By directing our funding and energy to student first initiatives, I know that this is all possible. It is my goal to ensure that your student government is working for you. Vote for the Scarlet Spirit, and together, we can do this.

**Naseem Benjelloun**  
**The Scarlet Spirit**





## BIOGRAPHY

My name is Darin Mains. I am a Public Health major with a minor in Human Services and I am in my third year at UNLV. After I graduate I plan on joining the Peace Corps to serve as an HIV Educator and then I was born and raised in a small town outside of Boston, Massachusetts, but Las Vegas has become my home. Throughout my time here, I have aspired to be involved with meaningful organizations that support students and the community in some way. I was a Resident Assistant for Housing and Residential Services, where I acted as a resource for residents and guided them through their first year at UNLV. I currently serve as the President of the Public Health Student Association, where I work with my officer team to connect students to public health and experts in the field. I also work as a Senior Investigator for the UNLV Contact Tracing Team, where I contact those who were personally affected by COVID-19 and I connect them to resources in our community. In my free time, I like to swim, jam to Taylor Swift and work on my island in Animal Crossing.

## GOAL STATEMENT

When I started my journey at UNLV, I was only here to get my degree. After getting to know different parts of the student body, my experience became much more than that. I became connected to UNLV and I found a desire to make it a better place. I would be ignorant to say that UNLV is a perfect place, it is not. Throughout my experience here I have observed the amazing aspects our university has to offer, but I have also seen the flaws that lie beneath the surface. I want to make sure that every student, regardless of their identity, has access to resources, opportunities, and success. In our current climate, students have plenty of things to struggle with and UNLV should not be one of those struggles. I will do my best to actually listen to students and transform their concerns into action.

**Darin Mains**  
**A Connected Future**





## BIOGRAPHY

Hey there UNLV, I'm Abraham Lugo, and I'm a Junior Political Science major with a minor in Brookings Public Policy. However, that wasn't always the case. For many years, I was an aspiring architecture student with a growing interest in social justice advocacy work, unsure if I was where I truly wanted to be. Once I switched my major, all of my interests in public service and community work became my whole life. I am now Vice President of UNLV's Young Democrats, Vice President of the Men of Color Alliance, and Chair of the University Initiatives committee on the CSUN senate. As I've furthered myself into advocating for undocumented students, as I am a DACA, first generation Venezuelan immigrant myself, I've also been able to immerse myself into amplifying the voices of other minorities across the Southern Nevada community. Now, my main priority is utilizing compassion-building strategies and my leadership roles to implement progressive initiatives in support of all races, religions, ethnicities, sexualities, and genders to the best of my ability. The time for real progress is long overdue, but I hope to serve as a vessel for students through my experience, empathy, and determination to make UNLV a second home for all.

## GOAL STATEMENT

As UNLV's student government has advanced over the years, so have the variety of issues students are facing every day. Our goal is to ensure we as representatives stop avoiding problems that directly affect our students, and progress forward with solutions that are relevant to our current climate. I will be focusing a transition to social media marketing becoming a pivotal form of communication for students, creating efforts to revamp an ongoing relay of resources, scholarships, campaigns, and projects being put forth. Furthermore, my main focus of my term will be the development of diversity & social justice initiatives, continuing the strides I have begun for representation through legislative bills and resolutions. Working to amplify the Elections and Operations department into bigger projects, I will be moving to expand the 5K initiative to more progressive, valuable initiatives, and applying an emphasis on campus safety promotion as we continue our efforts against COVID-19. Although we are all learning to adjust during this transition, the momentum of progress will only move forward with Yap Lugo, a ticket for you.

**Abraham Lugo  
Yap Lugo**

# \$5K INITIATIVE

**VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITE CAMPUS IMPROVEMENT PROJECT! THE STUDENT PROPOSAL WITH THE MOST VOTES WILL BE IMPLEMENTED ON CAMPUS IN THE UPCOMING SEMESTER.**

The previous winner, a mural, will be in support of the Black Lives Matter movement and is currently being designed by Fine Arts students with the assistance of faculty. It will be in the form of a banner on CBC, and each year a new banner that reflects UNLV's values will go up. In partnership with the Barrick Museum, all banners will be archived for future displays.

## **HAMMOCKS:**

Fixed posts would be installed in locations around the academic mall and darkside in areas that would provide shade without obstructing event areas. Hammocks would be available for borrowing from the front desks at the Student Union and other buildings.

## **RAINBOW CROSSWALKS:**

In show of public SUPPORT OF THE LGBTQia+ community, the crosswalks at two or three areas around campus would be painted to reflect a rainbow pattern.

## **GROVE OF FRUIT TREES:**

in compliance with grounds and facilities, a grove of fruit trees would be planted in an accessible location on campus. (and yes, students would be allowed to eat the fruit.)

## 2021 ELECTIONS COMMISSION

Maite Guerra  
Omid Najibzadeh  
Juliette Mkrtchyan  
Joshua Padilla  
Rey Ruiz



***Thank you for being awesome!***