

Associated Student Government 2026 Elections

Candidates for:

- President
- Student Trustee
- Vice President of Inclusion, Diversity, Equity & Accessibility (IDEA)
- Vice President of Community Learning Center
- Vice President of San Elijo

Candidates for ASG President

Duties of ASG President, per ASG Constitution:

1. Shall serve as the official representative of the students of MCC and therefore represent the student body and the ASG on appropriate occasions.
2. Serve as the chair of the Executive & Senate meetings.
3. Direct all executive functions of the Senate, and officiate carrying out legislation, resolutions, and sanctions as efficiently as possible.
4. Be responsible for filling vacant ASG committee positions as outlined in the ASG Constitution.
5. Preside over District committee appointments and fulfillments.
6. Serve as a liaison between the college administration, faculty and the ASG and ensure students play a role in participatory governance.
7. The President represents the entire student body as their constituency group

ASG does not endorse candidates. All candidates are listed in alphabetical order, by last name, for each position.

Thiago Barranco

Hello, my name is Thiago Barranco and I am running for student body president. I want to serve in this role because I would be a strong leader and representative for the student body. I currently serve as Oceanside Senator in our associated student government.

My involvements on campus include being a member in Spartan Society for Political Action and the PUENTE Club. I am also a part of the PUENTE program and EOPS. I am currently interning with the San Dieguito Alliance for Drug Free Youth where I focus on drug awareness for our youth and local advocacy for the dangers of second hand smoke. I previously interned with Congressman Mike Levin's campaign, where I developed the skills and practices necessary to effectively win elections and understand diverse constituency needs. As President my priorities are student life and following a delegate model of representation for the student body. I aim to improve student life through the promotion of our clubs as it has personally led to most of my friendships on campus. A goal I have is to host a Cars and Coffee at MiraCosta as I have recently developed a passion for cars after my dad bought a Honda S2000 that I have fallen in love with. I also would like to work on promotion as I believe there are an abundance of events and opportunities happening everyday on campus that some students simply don't know about and can greatly benefit from. For example I recently was awarded a MiraCosta passport grant, a grant that covered my passport fees entirely. I had only learned about the application the day it was due, via word of friend. I will work closely with our Director of Public Relations, whether it's starring in a promotional video or helping behind the scenes to keep our student body updated. When I'm not working on school related work I like to go surf, hangout with friends or check out new places with my girlfriend. Some fun facts about me are my fastest mile ever run is 4:36, I work mixing paint, I want to run for congress in the future, my favorite piece of fiction is the anime One Piece its parallels to world affairs are eloquently crafted by its author resulting in a fictional masterpiece, and I once drove off with the gas pump still in my car. I vow to go above and beyond in the potential responsibilities to come.



Elmer (EJ) Catapang

Hello, my name is EJ Catapang, and I am running for President. I want to serve in this role because, throughout this first year attending MiraCosta, I've discovered opportunities and communities that have impacted my life in ways I never expected. I want to help create and expand that same environment for students across all three campuses. I've learned so much, serving in the Associated Student Government this past year, where I currently serve as the Oceanside Senator and Vice-Chair of the IDEA Workgroup. One of my biggest successes that I have achieved has been the ability to engage with cultural groups, including the Pilipinx American committee. Here, I helped celebrate Filipino culture by bringing together students to help me perform a traditional dance, Tinikling, at a mixer event, putting my culture on full display. I utilized my own experience of Filipino to showcase how I was proud and loved my identity as a Filipino American. MiraCosta is an institution with over 64% of its population being that of students of color. Everyone of each background and culture deserves to have a place where they can be proud of who they are. Serving on the Equal Employment Opportunity Advisory Committee (EEOAC) has expanded my understanding of how students can make an impact in spaces that may not directly tailor to the environments of students. Contributing to discussions about hiring practices showed me how important it is to advocate for equity at every level. I was able to use my student voice to emphasize how reducing barriers in the hiring process and building a more diverse staff can directly strengthen students' sense of belonging on campus. One of the most impactful and important discoveries during my time at MiraCosta this year has been the strong support programs available to students regarding mental health. As a student who has faced many challenges with mental health, I only want to encourage those who feel as if they don't have a place where they feel supported about their issues to find those spaces within all that MiraCosta has developed for them. As President, I would love to encourage those of different cultures and backgrounds to be aware of the spaces where they can celebrate themselves and their identities, as well as widening the view of how students can use their voice to impact all parts of MiraCosta. Finally, I aim to promote all of the amazing programs and support available to students at MiraCosta. I understand that even as President, my individual impact has its limits. However, I can break these barriers by leading as an example, inspiring initiative and a desire to serve others in students who, like me, were unaware and skeptical of their potential to make an impact. My goal is to develop and shine a light towards the spaces, communities, and resources that go unnoticed, so that every student can find their place of belonging, and feel empowered to make a difference together.



Max Harris

Hello, my name is Max Harris, and I am currently running for President. While many people are naturally charismatic or outgoing, with the ability to stand in front of a crowd and give a speech impromptu, I am more introverted by nature. I have had to develop the skills necessary to become a strong orator and learn how to effectively connect with others through hard work. In high school, I have participated in both broadcast journalism and speech and debate, where I have taken on a variety of roles. From producing a daily morning show to debating, delivering speeches, and even acting alongside fellow students in various events, I am living proof that someone who is not inherently gifted can grow into these abilities through dedication. I have also learned to overcome fears through sports such as fencing and pole vaulting. The role of President is to represent all students at MiraCosta and requires someone who is knowledgeable and experienced in organizing others while making quick, decisive, and effective decisions. It also demands accountability to the entire student government. I developed these skills as a producer in one of the top high school broadcast programs in the United States. In this role, I managed not only students in my grade but also upperclassmen. The quality of the show depended on my performance, and with a high national ranking, I consistently worked under significant pressure. In speech and debate, I served as captain of my event, where I mentored new students and led by example through strong performances at the state level. If elected President, I will work to ensure that all students at MiraCosta are fairly represented and have a voice. I will also strive to lead a unified student government that works collaboratively and effectively for the benefit of everyone.



Candidates for Student Trustee

Duties of Student Trustee, per ASG Constitution:

1. Serve as a liaison to MCCCCD Board of Trustees and provide the student perspective.
2. The role is further defined in MCCCCD Board Policy 2015 and Administrative Procedure 2015. The Student Trustee shall be considered an executive member and ex-officio member of the ASG Student Senate.
3. The Student Trustee's constituency group is the entire student body

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Michelle Abou Fadel

Hello, my name is Michelle Abou Fadel, and I am a first-year Political Science Student. I am running for the position of Student Trustee, who represents all students across MiraCosta College and serves their interests on the Board of Trustees. I want to serve in this role because, coming from a complex background, I've seen firsthand the impact of intentional student advocacy where it matters, and I believe in the power of collective student organization. Growing up in the United Arab Emirates, personal rights and freedoms, especially student and political advocacy, were heavily discouraged, and even the slightest criticism could land you in legal trouble. It was for this reason that my family decided to move to Lebanon soon after my birth. The cultural atmosphere in Lebanon was wildly different- it was energetic and filled with youth passionate about social issues. I spent some of the most formative years of my life watching students protest their schools and government for less corruption and better student rights and conditions. This experience introduced me to broader student activism movements. Although I was too young to understand at the time, witnessing this showed me the power of visibility and collective voice, planting a seed in me that would later fuel my passion for politics and student advocacy.

As Student Trustee, my top priorities revolve around issues that directly impact students, namely economic issues and a lack of direct academic support. At MiraCosta, roughly four out of every ten students are low-income, making it difficult to afford tuition and supplies. While a few programs exist to support the needs of these students, textbook prices remain a major obstacle. Many classes are vague about the textbook requirements and costs during registration, and can cost students hundreds of extra dollars every semester. As a low-income student myself, I will work with the Board of Trustees to establish a system that displays textbook costs for each class before the registration process, so students can make informed decisions about which classes to take and which will best support them. I will also do my best to financially support student activities on campus. My position as the Inter-Club Council (ICC) Senator of Finance has allowed me to approve funds for various clubs across campus and support their events, activities, and travel. Furthermore, at the end of the year, I will draft the ICC budget for the 2026-2027 school year to adequately support and address club needs throughout the year. In addition to helping students with economic difficulties, I also want to help MiraCosta students advance their careers and majors through a peer mentorship program, where both alumni and current students can offer their guidance and support to students who feel unsure or lost in their goals. If you believe in having greater financial transparency, stronger student support systems, and leadership that listens and advocates, I would be honored to have your vote. Together, we can build a MiraCosta where students actually feel supported, heard, and set up to succeed.



Ceara (Cece) Carson

Hello, my name is Ceara and I am running for student trustee. I want to serve in this role because I want student voices to be expanded and shared to the board so that others know that their voices are heard.



Mily Patton

Hi! My name is Mily Patton, and I am running for Student Trustee for the 2026-2027 school year. I would love to serve as your Student Trustee because MiraCosta is a community that has supported and influenced me in so many meaningful ways. Through programs like EOPS, MESA, and Umoja, I've been in spaces where I feel recognized, supported, and motivated to grow, which is why I want to give back and help create that same experience for every student. I'm currently involved on campus as an ASG Senator and a student worker at the Career Center, where I stay connected to different parts of MiraCosta culture and the students who make it feel so special. I love being involved, listening to people's experiences, and finding ways to help them however I can. Working at the Career Center gives me the chance to connect with students one-on-one, and my work has shown me how important it is to have someone on your side, making sure you aren't overlooked. Previously, I've been an Inter-Club Council Representative for Pickleball Club and Public Relations Officer for Black Student Union, which has given me experience in leadership and more. Through my roles in ASG, ICC, and BSU, I've actively represented student voices. So, for me, being Student Trustee would mean continuing to support students and help them feel confident and know they belong. I want to continue to be a voice for students, so they feel listened to and truly advocated for in decisions that affect them. As Student Trustee, I'd focus on making sure that student voices are reflected in decisions made at the board level and I would create clearer pathways of communication from student to Student Trustee to the board, making sure information is easier to access and understand. As Student Trustee, I would be open and easy to reach as students could connect with me on Instagram, by email, or in person at campus events or ASG meetings. I also want to implement a simpler way for students to share input, such as Google Forms, polls, or open feedback. So even if you're busy, on the go, or not on campus as often, your voice can still be heard. I'm also the kind of person who will just stop and listen if you come up to me on campus. I want the relationship between students and the student trustee to be an open channel. I care deeply about transparency, equity, and making sure decisions are accessible to everyone. I'm genuinely someone who loves this campus, its people, and the student culture. I would be honored to represent the students of MiraCosta as Student Trustee and to continue building a community where everybody feels like they have a voice. Thank you for the time and consideration you have given. For any questions regarding my campaign for Student Trustee or if you just want to talk, please don't be afraid to reach out! Instagram: [@milypatton](#) Email: pattonmily@gmail.com



Damion Pollard

I would like to be in ASG as a voice for others. As a social man I hear a lot of complaints and needs from fellow students, I've also had problems pointed out by staff members. I want to put my social skills to use and be the connections, the bridge that brings us all together making sure I do whatever in my power to provide aid, info and overall change daily for the community of MiraCosta. This campus is great, I want to see it grow and in order to do so this campus needs an unbiased voice that can listen and communicate what's on their mind and those of others. I'll keep track of what I see and hear from those around and take this info to meetings and make sure to speak up addressing important to least important concerns and trending topics/data. I'm very serious in discussions and meetings and I like to make sure meetings are straightforward and timely. Another goal is to be a voice for POC(person of color) as there are few in positions that hold a voice. That's where I come in as I live such a diverse life as an African American I share views on the minority side. I also know a lot of POC from all over the globe so I get to know other views and get to know other racial backgrounds. My best skills are in sociology as learning social behaviors trends etc and I put a lot of my interest experimenting in it. Ultimately a voicepiece for those who don't know or like socializing or maybe they can't be present, those who can't properly communicate due to personal, medical, language barriers, ect. When I talk to people I find out how to communicate, I understand not everyone speaks english, proper english or lack the grammatical education. I'm adaptable so I can speak to this person to where it's comfortable, providing a safe space where others know they aren't forced, rushed or judged for what they say and do. I practice my listening skills down to little details and proper responses. This paired with my friendly and extroverted personality makes me very approachable. Last but not least I want to sit in meetings for the community and do the heavy work for those who are looking for change and want to better the community riding the feeling of helplessness or feeling lost. Whatever it may be I will provide for those in need, and push to help grow our community for us and the future.



Ian Vargas Polo

Hello, my name is Ian Vargas Polo, and I am running for the Student Trustee position. I am a recent high school graduate and a full time student. My major is in Business Administration, with a focus in accounting. However, I do have a strong interest in political science. I believe I am best fit for this role, as I have the connections to newer students coming in, and can still relate to those who have been on campus for longer times. I have experience in our student government and have held the senator position for our San Elijo campus. I am easy to reach and easy to approach. I guarantee that I can find something that you and I can relate to, whatever that may be. I strive to be a proper representation of our students and this college.



Candidates for Vice President of IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity & Accessibility)

Duties of VP of IDEA, per ASG Constitution:

1. Hold the ASG accountable in identifying inclusion, diversity, equity and accessibility issues, needs and interests among the student body.
2. Serve as the chair of the ASG Inclusion, Diversity, Equity & Accessibility Working Group.
3. Ensure that the goals of the ASG align with inclusion, diversity, equity and accessibility as stated in the MCC Mission, Vision, Commitment, Institutional Values & Institutional Goals.
4. The Vice President of Inclusion, Diversity, Equity & Accessibility represents the entire student body as their constituency group.

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Elizabeth Calvillo Flores

My name is Elizabeth Calvillo Flores, and I am running for Vice President of Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility (IDEA). I want to serve in this role because I strive for the students at MiraCosta to feel well represented, and for the campus to be a safe space that supports all individuals regardless of background or capabilities. I will amplify the voices of underserved students across campus; this role would allow me to be at the table where decisions are made and ensure that my goals and those of like-minded board members are met. As Vice President of IDEA, I would keep my email, Instagram, and Google Forms open for feedback so that students can easily reach out to me with any concerns, so that I'm able to address them in meetings. I believe my consideration, empathy, and passion make me a strong leader who will make decisions that benefit not only the majority of students and faculty on campus, but also the minority that are often underserved. I myself have been supported by programs like MESA and EOPS, which have uplifted me during difficult times and made my path through college smoother. I want all students of different pathways to have their paths and journeys supported while attending MiraCosta, helping them advance in their careers. I'm on the school campus, involved in many clubs such as the Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI), Environmental Club, and Tennis Club, and I serve two leadership positions in HSI and Environmental Club as Event Coordinator and Treasurer, respectively. Through HSI, I helped coordinate a Baile at which we invited everyone of all backgrounds to attend. We shared our Hispanic culture, including music, food, and even hospitality. I hope to continue coordinating events that unite students of all cultures. I find myself on campus for many hours, not only for schoolwork but also just to socialize, because I love the community I'm surrounded by, and I want other students to feel the same. With your vote, you can help me reach my goal of promoting MiraCosta College's inclusion, diversity, equality, and accessibility.



Tina Talebloo

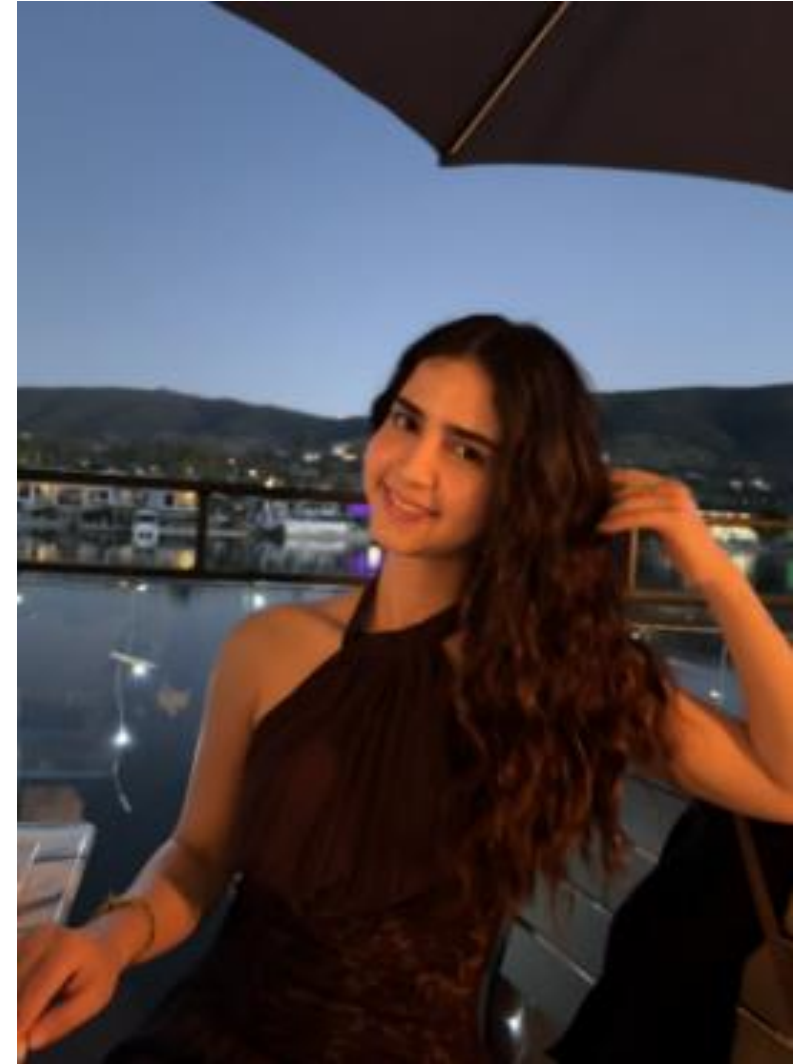
My name is Tina Talebloo, and I am running for Vice President of Inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility. As a first-generation college student and Iranian American, I understand firsthand the challenges of finding my place and feeling truly welcomed in an academic environment. Growing up navigating two cultures and being the first in my family to pursue higher education, I have learned that belonging is not something that just happens, it has to be intentionally built. That personal experience is what drives my passion for creating spaces where every student feels seen, valued, and supported.

I am a Sociology major in my first year at MiraCosta, and my studies have deepened my understanding of the social structures that shape our lives and communities. I want to use that knowledge to be a meaningful leader on campus, someone who does not shy away from difficult conversations, who shines a light on both the struggles and the wins happening in our world, and who brings those conversations directly to students. I believe an informed student body is an empowered one, and I want to be a bridge between what is happening globally and what we can do locally, right here at MiraCosta.

I am the Founder and President of The Social Plate, an organization I created to bring students together through meaningful conversations about different cultures and global social issues, all while sharing food from the cultures we explore. I also serve as Treasurer of MIRAN, the Middle Eastern and Iranian Association, where I help uplift a community that is often underrepresented in academic spaces. I am a proud member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, and I intern with MiraCosta's Sociology Department as a Sociology Coordinator. Beyond campus, I volunteer at the local Boys & Girls Club, assisting with the Cultural Club, STEM Club, and Jewelry Club, and tutoring 4th and 5th grade students. I currently serve as an Oceanside Senator, where my involvement with the IDEA Workgroup gives me direct insight into how inclusion and accessibility policies are shaped at the institutional level.

As an Iranian American, I know what it means to carry the weight of what is happening in your home country while still trying to show up fully as a student. I want to be a support system and a safe space for any student who may feel torn, scared, or unheard. No student should have to navigate those feelings alone.

If elected, I hope to organize events that are genuinely fun, creative, and inclusive for every student at MiraCosta. I want to create programming that celebrates our differences, builds community across cultures, and makes IDEA something every student feels personally connected to. I want to spark conversations that matter, advocate for resources that are truly accessible, and make sure that every student, regardless of their background, knows that they have a place here. I would be truly honored to serve this student body as your Vice President of Inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility.



Candidates for Vice President of CLC (Community Learning Center)

Duties of VP of CLC, per ASG Constitution:

1. Identify the CLC student body needs and interests.
2. Serve as the chair of the CLC ASG Working Group.
3. Advocate for CLC student needs and interests to the Executive Council.
4. Oversee and ensure CLC senators comply with the ASG Constitution and ASG Bylaws.
5. Act as a mentor to the CLC senators and promote engagement in different areas of the ASG.
6. Assist Student Life & Leadership in the coordination and execution of events on the Community Learning Center Campus.
7. The Vice President of the Community Learning Center represents the Community Learning Center and noncredit students as their constituency

ASG does not endorse candidates. All candidates are listed in alphabetical order, by last name, for each position.

Shovan Vatandoust

Hello my name is Shovan Vatandoust and I am running for Vice President of the Community Learning Center. I want to serve in this role because I have previous knowledge from my days from Palomar College and California State University, San Marcos. I want to build a relationship between three different MiraCosta sites and have a strong bond to be unified as a whole team. When I was attending Palomar College I was first a delegate and then worked my way up to a ASG Senator and became a Inter-Club Council for that college. When I was attending CSUSM I was a Senator for their college and I oversee the campus as a whole and became a College of Humanities, Arts, Behavioral and Social Sciences (CHABBS) Representative. My role for that position was to oversee my CHABBS department and help students with any questions they may have. If you have me as your next VP for the Community Learning Center I will fulfill all my promises and uphold to the law of MiraCosta College's status.



Candidates for Vice President of San Elijo

As there are no candidates for VP of San Elijo, this position will be filled by appointment at a later date.

More Info & How to Vote

- Campaigning period is 4/6 – 4/23
- Learn more about the candidates by attending a Candidate Forum:
 - **San Elijo campus forum: 4/9 at 11am, SAN 1131**
 - To join this forum via Zoom, click [here](#).
 - **Community Learning Center campus forum: 4/14 at 12pm, CLC 127**
 - To join this forum via Zoom, click [here](#).
 - **Oceanside campus forum: 4/15 at 2pm, Aztlan B**
 - To join this forum via Zoom, click [here](#).
- Voting opens on [Engage](#) at 8am on 4/21
- Voting closes at 8am on 4/23