

Caeli Mantanky

Community Health Pre-Slated Candidate

Tell us why you are passionate about CNSA.

CNSA is a wonderful organization that works to involve nursing students in the wider nursing community of our state. The opportunities for networking, professional development and experiences in governance are far beyond what could be gleaned from just participating in a nursing school and I believe that all those experiences are important to developing a well rounded, global perspective as a practicing nurse.

Why do you think you are the best fit for the position you are running for?

I am deeply passionate about community health, I feel that it is a cornerstone of the nursing profession. I have already implemented elements of community health in my school's chapter (which I am the current president of) by organizing Health Awareness events to take place in our local community and creating an inaugural sub-committee of our chapter specifically dedicated to community health-related activities. I have also recently begun volunteering with and shadowing at a local community health center which has given me invaluable experience with community health as practiced by nurses and nurse practitioners firsthand.

What leadership experience do you have that will help you serving on the CNSA Board of Directors?

I currently hold the position of president on the board of my nursing school's CNSA chapter as well as the position of class representative; a role that sees me sitting in on faculty meetings and bringing my cohort's voice to the table. Additionally, I work as a Lead Tutor at my university's Learning and Academic Resource Center; in this role I mentor, train, observe and offer constructive critique to new tutors as well as develop and implement quality improvement projects for the Center. I also volunteer as a

program manager with a local non profit which provides perinatal and postpartum support to underserved mothers; in this role I handle many administrative tasks such as managing the organization's calendar and email inbox.

Provide an example of a time you had a conflict with a peer and how you resolved it.

When I was initially running for the position of president, a peer and myself initially agreed to run as co-presidents since we both wanted the role. however, when we were told that there could only be one person in the role of president, we had conflict over how to address the situation. I felt pressure to concede the role of president and I almost did however, another classmate impressed on me the importance of not giving up things that are important to you just to avoid rubbing people the wrong way. With that in mind I explained to my peer that my running against them for the position had nothing to do with them or my relationship with them but rather that I felt I deserved a chance at the role.

How has being involved in a student nurses association impacted your nursing education?

Being involved in my school's student nurses association has expanded my perspective as a student nurse far beyond the walls of my university and clinical sites. I have seen what an impact we can make in our campus and local community through our volunteering and events and it has highlighted for me just how important it is, as a member of the nursing profession, to be a pillar in your community, whatever or wherever that may be. It has also shown me the beauty of mentorship, being in the position of being mentored by those that have come before me and in turn mentoring those that have come up behind me. This kind of chain membership, I believe, installs values in the students who participate which will have a positive impact on the culture of nursing.

How do you think CNSA could be more involved at the chapter level?

I think that the Community Health Director position is a perfect vehicle for CNSA to become more involved at the chapter level. The chapter challenges that are currently conducted are excellent for having the chapters unite to move towards a common goal and I think having more of these types of structured activities and the marketing necessary to produce state-wide participation would make great strides in giving the chapters that sense of being a part of a greater, cohesive whole.

Please write a short bio about yourself and your personal goals in your career as a nurse.

After growing up in the Los Angeles area, I moved to Sonoma County to attend college at Sonoma State University. After two years of diligent work as a pre-nursing student, I was fortunate enough to be accepted into SSU's competitive Nursing Program from which I will graduate in May, 2020 with my BSN and a minor in Women's Health. While pursuing my BSN I have also been a member and now serve as the president of my school's CNSA chapter, volunteered with local non-profits and community health centers and pursued study in American Sign Language. I have also had a chance to develop my love of teaching through my roles as a Peer Tutor and Teaching Assistant; opportunities which I hold very dear. After I graduate from Sonoma State, I intend to gain experience as an RN and then pursue a graduate degree in nursing in order to achieve my goal of becoming a Family Nurse Practitioner so that I can work as a provider in a community health clinic or similar setting and perhaps one day return to the university setting as a nursing instructor.