

2023 Minnesota State University, Mankato Student Government Election Candidate Guide

- Candidates who submitted a statement/photo by the deadline are listed in this document.
- Not all candidates who are on the ballot have a candidate statement/photo in this document.

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Sierra Roiger/David Mesta – Mavericks United



Hello Mavericks! My name is Sierra Roiger and I am running to be your next Student Body President. I am currently a junior here studying Business Management with a minor in Political Science. I have been highly involved in my time here. Currently, I am serving in a few different roles. I am the Academic Affairs Coordinator and a Residential-Life Senator for Student Government, Chair of the Student Allocations Committee, and the Residence Hall Association President. In these roles, I have been

able to work with many folks around our campus, from fellow students to the Provost and President. I have also been able to advocate for a lower cost increase of parking permits for students in the Residence Halls, supported an increase of \$5,000 for the Food Pantry to provide necessary basic needs support to our students, worked with the rest of the Student Allocations Committee to create a budget recommendation that would continue to support programming and activities for all students to enjoy, and have proven my ability to show up when I commit to any position. All of that above is just the beginning of what we, as a party, would like to do to support all of you. A few additional initiatives we want to see addressed includes annual review and increases to student wages, improved access to basic needs resources such as the Food Pantry and Campus Kitchen by expanding hours and visibility, taking a stance against the use of Lockdown Browser + Webcam as this creates equity barriers to many students, hyflex course support as this supports students who may experience barriers to attending in-person classes, and MORE. Make sure to open your phone, go onto mnsu.edu/voting on Monday April 10 at 8am-Tuesday April 11 at 6pm and VOTE! Vote for YOUR leadership, YOUR student fees, and get your friends to vote as well! Vote for the party that is going to support each and every one of our fellow Mavericks using experience and a commitment that is unmatched by the other party. We know we can do the job and we can do it right. VOTE MAVERICKS UNITED! -Sierra Roiger
Hello Mavericks! My name is David Mesta, and I am running for Student Body Vice President. I am a first-generation Mexican American college student from Faribault, MN. I am currently involved in student government as the Public Relations and Marketing Coordinator and Off-Campus Senator where I have advocated for a more inclusive campus by supporting the food pantry and expanding mental health resources to support our students not having to go hungry in class or choose between buying their next meal or textbooks. I have also been involved in LatinX Student Union and other parts of campus where I have connected with the broader student body hearing their concerns to advocate for issues like more bussing services, moving the reflection room from a hallway to an actual room in CSU so our students feel more inclusive and supported on campus. I am running for the position to be a voice for all students to represent and advocate

for issues like supporting mental health resources, ending food insecurity, and college affordability. My leadership experience and involvement on campus has given me the drive to continue to advocate and work with the many student clubs and organizations to find more ways to make our campus a more inclusive environment and one way to do that is by creating a leadership council where we can connect with every group from campus to hear the issues on campus and find ways to work on projects and resources. The involvement I have been a part of on campus has provided me with the ability to work with people from different backgrounds, and the passion to help get things done that will help support my fellow senators on student government and the broader student body to have their voices lifted and be a friendly face that will engage with the broader student body to bring their voice to the table in the decision-makings and work with students to create a diverse and inclusive campus where all of our students feel supported on campus and can achieve their goals. Make sure to open your phone, go onto mnsu.edu/voting on Monday April 10 at 8am- Tuesday April 11 at 6pm and VOTE! Vote for YOUR leadership, YOUR student fees, and get your friends to vote as well! Vote for the party that is going to support each and every one of our fellow Mavericks using experience and a commitment that is unmatched by the other party. We know we can do the job and we can do it right. VOTE MAVERICKS UNITED! -David Mesta

Darlington "Destined" Sehgbean /Ruth Asmamaw – Representing Mavericks



Hello Mavericks! My name is Darlington but I go by Destined. I am an international student from Liberia majoring in political science with a concentration in international relations and comparative politics. I am a junior and I aspire to become a human rights lawyer in the future. This dream stemmed from my awful childhood experience. I lost my mom at the tender age of six during a period of civil war in my home country. My dad had fled the war into exile, leaving my future in the uncertainty of hopelessness and despair. I eventually survived the war and reared myself in the streets of Monrovia, where I did not have access to primary education for at least ten years. This experience has inspired me to pursue a career in issues of social justice, and I am on a mission to ensure that no student should be out of school based on their family's economic background. The task to serve as student body president is a hard and

important one. However, I have acquired the relevant leadership skills and experience to face this challenge. I have served as an At-Large Senator of the student government for two consecutive terms; as an Off-campus Senator, and as president of the Maverick Involvement Team where I represent the interests of the over 260+ recognized student organizations we have on campus. I have also experienced global leadership forums and simulations which have deepened my capacity for global citizenship. This includes the 27th Session of the United Nations General Youth Assembly, the American Model United Nations International Collegiate Conference, and Student United 2022 Advocacy Conference. I also maintain a strong intersectionality which cuts across the story of various groups; including international students, black students, non-traditional students, first generation students and students from low socioeconomic backgrounds. Thus, I have a better understanding of the issues that affect our diverse student body. They say, “a better plan leads to a better future”, but I say having a first-hand experience of real-life situations provides student leaders the actual roadmap they need to seek the wellbeing of their fellow students. Otherwise, we are taking a bet on our future to think that someone who does not share our stories will represent us well. Based on experience, some of what I have set out to achieve under my leadership includes using civic engagement as a tool to ensure an inclusive student government in which every student’s voice is heard; advocating for inclusive student basic need resources to address the problems of food insecurity, housing insecurity, transportation and mental health on our campus; advocating for student support systems to make college more affordable for all student, and advocating for increased student wage and stipend.



To see the change you want to see, Vote for Representing Mavericks! My name is Ruth Asmamaw, I am running for student body vice-president of our party named Representing Mavericks. Growing up, I was taught to share what I have, and my school had a quote which was “Sharing is Caring”. Back then it sounded like sharing is good which might be food or school supplies but now that I am mature, I have come to realize that the word sharing is very broad, it might be physical things, information, emotions, or experiences. Being told to share, help, and care for people has led me to be a candidate for this position and serve all students at the university regardless of race, sex, gender, age, and socio-economic status because we are human beings and I believe we should be there for one another. Every candidate including me wants to make

a positive impact and have plans on what to change and solve to create a better educational environment, but the question is How and Why? I am looking forward to improving the college experience for domestic and international students which might be organizing events, and addressing concerns and complaints to the responsible administration by creating a more inclusive and supportive community that lasts for generations to come. My family but mainly my mother has inspired me to be a strong independent woman and make my mark in the world. With my strong work ethic, I was able to gain several leadership opportunities throughout my high school and college years. My college journey began in 2021 and since then I have been able to make a name for myself. My academic achievements and various leadership roles have made me a successful student leader. My major in social work and minors in communication studies and non-profit leadership is helping me to become a well-rounded individual. I am also part of an on-campus organization, EESA, which stands for Ethiopian and Eritrean Student Association. My role as president has allowed me to be a voice for more than 300 students on campus and to create meaningful memories while in college by organizing events and being involved in several activities and leadership roles. I am passionate about making a difference in the world and I am doing that through my involvement in student organizations, community service, and research. I see myself making a positive impact on those in need and making my mark in the humanitarian sector. I am a strong woman who is determined to make a difference. With the help of God, I will be joining the United Nations soon and I am passionate about becoming a leader in the humanitarian sector. My goal is to be a beacon of hope for those in need and to inspire other young women to follow their dreams. I am grateful for the opportunities that have been presented to me and I am determined to make the change every student strives for happen by being optimistic and committed to the role my position holds.

Ryan Leistikow – Mavericks United



Hey everyone! My name is Ryan Leistikow, I am a fourth-year Recreation Parks and Leisure Services major and I am running for at-large Senator. As the previous President of the student events team, I have gained valuable experience and established connections throughout MNSU. I want to use this experience to represent and advocate for all students on campus. One such issue is the need for fair and livable wages for all students who work on campus. As a student leader who has worked on campus, I understand the importance of higher wages for the hard work that students put in. If you chose me I would work hard to ensure all students feel like their voices are being heard and they are best represented to the best of their needs! Additionally, I am ready to fight hard to promote and create a welcoming and inclusive environment for all students. I will also make sure to amplify diverse voices and ensure that every student at MNSU has an equal opportunity to succeed. Most importantly I believe that the best way to make your voice heard is to get out and vote. That is what I encourage all mavericks to do. With your vote, I promise to prioritize the needs of our student body and be a strong and effective voice for positive change on campus.

Victor Nguyen – Mavericks United



If elected, I will work tirelessly to advocate for policies that support academic excellence, affordability, and inclusivity. I believe that all students should have access to high-quality education, regardless of their background or financial means. I will also work to promote a welcoming and supportive campus environment that values diversity and respects the voices of all students. My experience in student government and my passion for community engagement have prepared me to be an effective senator. I have a proven track record of working collaboratively with other student leaders and administration to address student concerns and implement positive change. As your senator, I will listen to your concerns, represent your interests, and work tirelessly to make our community a better place for all of us. I ask for your vote and your support, and I look forward to serving as your College of Business Senator. Thank you for your consideration.

Tsion Zewdie – Representing Mavericks



I am committed to representing your needs and advocating for positive change in our school community. Vote for me to be your voice and together let's make a difference

Deqo Ali – Mavericks United



My name is Deqo Ali, and I am running for Senator for the College of Arts and Humanities. I am a part of that college and would like to be a student voice for all Minnesota State University, Mankato students. A little about me, I currently work at the Accessibility Resources office as a student worker and this is my first year in Mankato. If you see me around campus, say Hi! I would love to hear what you are concerned with and what you are happy with here at our University.

Danawit Woldekidan – Mavericks United



Hi everyone ! I am Danawit woldekidan. majoring in international relations.

Safa Abdiranman Mohamed – Mavericks United



Hello fellow students! My name is Safa, and I am excited to be running for the position of Senate Representative for the College of Science and Technology. As a student of this college, I have seen firsthand the challenges that we face. That is why, if elected, I will work to improve the student experience and provide new opportunities for career growth. We can create a transformative and rewarding college experience by creating a rich and welcoming environment that encourages both academic and personal growth. I believe that career growth is a crucial aspect of any college experience. As a Senate Representative, I will work to connect students with lifelong mentors and alumni who can provide valuable guidance and networking opportunities. I will also advocate for increased funding for research and access to more internships for students, providing them with invaluable opportunities to gain real-world experience and make meaningful contributions to their respective fields. My goal as Senate Representative will be to create an environment where all students can thrive and achieve their goals. I am passionate about this college and its students, and I believe that by working together we can create a brighter future for all. Thank you for your consideration, and I hope to earn your vote! #MavericksUnited

Trinitey Bryant – Mavericks United



Hey Mavericks, my name is Trinitey, and I am running for the College of Education (COE) Senate seat. I am the current COE Senator, and I've spent my time advocating for efficient advising and building a bridge between KSP students and the COE. I plan on continuing this work next year, along with any other issues that arise. Outside of student government, I am the BSU president, Education Minnesota secretary, a member of the Teachers of Tomorrow, and most importantly, a mother to my 3-year-old son. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Douglas Roberts – Mavericks United



My name is Douglas Roberts, and I am running for re-election for a third term for Graduate Studies Senator. In my time at this university, I have been privileged to serve in several roles as a graduate student and your representative. I have in addition to having been your representative have served as the Student Basic Needs Coordinator, Vice Chair of the Centennial Student Union, Vice Chair of the Student Allocations Committee in the 89th Student Government, a Graduate Assistant for the Communication Studies Department, and Vice President of the Graduate Communication Association. Over the past couple of years, I have been focused on issues that you have told me are critical to you such as student wages which for work study students I helped successfully increase. However, work has been slow on raising graduate assistant wages which still remains a high priority for me with cost of living continuing to skyrocket. Student basic needs is also a high priority for me. Just this year, I supported increases to Maverick Food Pantry, and began to seek solutions for housing insecurity so graduate students and all students can hopefully in the future does not have to worry about being evicted. Furthermore, I have worked to protect disenfranchised students from policies that are harming their wellbeing on this campus. If re-elected I intend to continue to work toward supporting these issues and the protection and wellbeing of graduate students as a whole. If you support these principles, I encourage you to cast your vote for me as well as other Mavericks United candidates as they share these beliefs and seek to truly represent your needs.

Amalia Sharaf – Mavericks United



I am Amal Sharafkhodjaeva, and I am running for the second term as the Senator of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. I believe that students' concerns regarding their educational path have to be seen. Creating a safe environment and enhancing areas that students believe need it is my duty as an international student here, at Minnesota State University, Mankato.

Jordan Mueller – Mavericks United



Greetings! My name is Jordan Mueller and I am running for Off-Campus Senator. Over the past academic year, I have had the opportunity to serve on Student Senate and work on amazing projects. My track record consists of fighting for accessible transportation, expanding food pantry operations, and creating a SAF budget that works for ALL students. If elected I will be an active voice for minority groups such as the LGBTQIA+ Community and others. As a member of the gay community, I feel that I have experiences that can be turned into direct action that will leave positive effects across the entire university. If elected I will also work along my party's lines and fight for transparency and equality in every realm that affects students. A vote for me is a vote for the representation of all students. If elected, I will raise the voices of various student groups ranging from students with disabilities to students of color. I recognize that I may not have the same experiences as others and that other voices beside mine will be instrumental in accomplishing the task at hand. Thank you!

JeremiAH Revere – Mavericks United



I'm JeremiAH Revere and I am thrilled to announce my candidacy for the student senate here at Minnesota State. Gandhi once said, "Be the change you want to see in the world", and that perfectly captures my desire to make a difference in our university community. Real change starts with action and I'm ready and committed to continuing to make an impact here on campus. Help me help you make change here at Minnesota State and beyond.

Bezawit Berhanu – Mavericks United



My name is Bezawit Berhanu, and I am an international student from Ethiopia currently pursuing a major in computer science and a minor in Accounting and Marketing here at MNSU. I have set my sights on graduating in 2026. In the past, I had the honor of serving as a senator at large for the 2022/2023 term, where I had the opportunity to work on meaningful projects such as advocating for increased minimum wage and creating more work options for students. As a transfer student from the University of Minnesota, I understand the challenges of starting a new life in a different school and directing the credit transfer process. I am committed to using my experiences to assist and support fellow students in similar situations. I am excited to run for off-campus senator for the 2023/2024 term to continue serving the student body. I believe in the power of diversity and inclusivity. I am dedicated to advocating for the needs and concerns of off -Students at MNSU and working towards creating positive change for the student body. I am open to listening to the concerns and suggestions of my fellow students and working collaboratively with other senators and university staff to address these issues. Together, we can make a difference and create a more inclusive and supportive community for all students at MNSU.

Roshit Niraula – Mavericks United



Howdy Friends, Martin Luther King Jr. said, “If you want to change the world, pick up your pen and write.” Here, today, as I plan on the many ways of making change happen, I find myself writing to you as I write my name for the candidacy of Off-Campus Senator for the 91st Student Government. Over the past year, I have had the pleasure of serving as the CSET Senator of the 90th Student Government. In my tenure as a Senator, I have advocated for a better student experience here at Minnesota State University, Mankato, and assisted my colleagues in echoing their voices for the same. The key project that I worked on was to address Wayfinding and Navigation across campus and we partnered with the Computer Science Department, ITS, and other offices on campus to make notable achievements on the same. I have also had the pleasure of serving on the Academic Affairs Committee and the Student Technology Fee Sub-Committee along with the Technology Round Table and CSET Dean Search Committee. I am running now to push for a more accessible college environment for the entire student body. As a Senator, I aim to expand my project and make sure we deliver an accessible solution for wayfinding across campus. My student leadership experiences have provided me with the ability to work with my colleagues in Senate and elsewhere to push students' concerns and grown a passion in me to get things done. I want to continue building on my experiences and support the new Student Government as we push for better access to college resources, expansion, and inclusion of textbooks in our Textbook Reserve, advocate for more inclusive spaces on campus, and much more. Your college experience should help you achieve whatever you aim for and as a Student Leader, I aim to work with other leaders and address the setbacks you may face! Cheers!

Francesca Goma – Mavericks United



Hello everyone My name is Francesca

Goma I am a junior student in engineering mechanical, and I am running for CSET Senator. I am a transfer student from IUGB, Ivory Coast in Africa. I am presenting myself to represent diversity in my department, therefore in the university and to advocate for and support all types of students in the university. I have experience in this position as I was in the Senate for this same position and have been a board member of EWB (Engineering Without Border) and also SWE (Society of Women Engineers) here at MNSU. Also back in my previous college, I was involved with the Art Club and other activities. I am interested in this position because I believe there is still some change that can be done to improve student life. I want to improve and make the resources on campus more accessible to everyone. I want to make every student feel comfortable, secure and included. I believe in fairness and equity, everyone deserves a chance, and that college is for.

Khunza Asma – Independent



Hello Mavericks! I am an Independent candidate and I want to be your voice towards any issues related with Student Health Services, I am from medical background did my under graduation in Medicine and I can understand the problems of students related to health services. Please vote for me and give me an opportunity to bring new policies for the benefit of students. By voting me, we can add our voice to the chorus that forms opinions and basis for action same like a drop of water fills a pot, each one of your support can give a motivational power to bring developments and new changes in the students life.