

ELECTION CANDIDATES: VICE CHAIR

The following are questionnaire responses from the candidates for vice chair for the second year of the 2021–2023 Term. Please review before the election to be held during the meeting on April 5, 2022.

CANDIDATE 1: Youth Legislator Samantha Lyle

What is your strongest leadership quality?

Open-mindedness along with communication are my strongest leadership qualities. I am an avid debater and as secretary and captain of my debate team, I work hard to ensure everyone feels prepared and knows what's going on communication-wise.

After our first year, it is clear that we have so many interesting and innovative legislators and I look forward to continuing to hear everyone's brilliant ideas, as your vice-chair I will ensure that everyone is heard and is involved in the conversation. This is especially important as we are entering our second year. We are soon going to be discussing bill ideas and I want to help facilitate engaging discussion.

How would you inspire youth legislators to fully engage in the Nevada Youth Legislature?

I plan to inspire my fellow legislators to engage in the Nevada Youth Legislature in a few different ways. First, I would set a precedent of an inclusionary atmosphere. As someone who has felt my ideas are "less valuable" than others I know it can be hard to join in on discussions and put your ideas out there, but I will ensure right off the bat, everyone knows their opinions, ideas, and thoughts are valued. This past year I have felt safe sharing my ideas and I want to continue this positive atmosphere.

During this past year, I have found that some of the best discussions we have had were reflections and I want to continue to ask questions that allow us to reflect on our lesson or activity. I would also often ask for everyone's opinions and suggestions on how our meetings went and input on what can be done differently next time. I want to ensure that during our last year we are continuing to grow together.

What would you want your leadership legacy to be?

I would want my leadership legacy to be characterized as unifying. All of us have unique experiences and exceptional ideas that we can all bring to the table. I want everyone to feel I have utilized all of our talents to reach our end goal together. I played soccer for over 10 years and when I left the team I believe I was remembered as a team player. I always prioritized encouraging my teammates and I want to do the same with all of you. I know that together we can accomplish anything.

CANDIDATE 2: Youth Legislator Nicole Miller

What is your strongest leadership quality?

My strongest leadership quality is my dedication to creating a collaborative environment. In order for any team to function effectively, it is essential that everyone works together to achieve a common goal, using each team member's strengths to assist in the team's success. We should all motivate and inspire each other to put our best work forward. In previous leadership experiences within DECA, Mock Trial, and Friendship Circle, I always ensure that everyone understands the value that they bring in their contributions towards our common goal. I also lead in a democratic leadership style, prioritizing the opinions of the group over simply my own. This democratic leadership style allows everyone to have a say in setting our objectives that will help us stay on track throughout our term, and I have found that it encourages active participation.

How would you inspire youth legislators to fully engage in the Nevada Youth Legislature?

This month, I had the opportunity to serve as one of two delegates from Nevada in the United States Senate Youth Program. Through this program, I was able to interact with prominent government officials, including US Senators, UN and NATO Representatives, a Supreme Court Justice, and White House Advisors. During these interactions, I took active notes on the importance of bipartisanship, compromise, and collaboration in order to make change within the community. I believe that these skills are essential to inspiring full engagement in any group, especially given our goal to propose a bill to Nevada legislation. I would like to share what I have learned about them and promote an environment in which these skills are practiced. In addition to this, I am an organized and goal-oriented person, who, if elected, would ensure that our time is used efficiently and effectively towards concrete, group set objectives. This clarity will create a sense of purpose and pride that allows us to identify and celebrate checkpoints towards successful outcomes.

What would you want your leadership legacy to be?

I want my leadership to establish a legacy of empowering others to advocate effectively for the changes they want to see happen. Developing stronger leaders and more of them helps our communities by expanding the number of people who can speak up for those who don't have a voice or whose voices are not being heard. It is my hope to support increased leadership within the Nevada Youth Legislature so that we can continue our impact beyond our two-year commitment. I hope to take my experience at Nevada Youth Legislature and pay it forward by inspiring future community leaders within my district to actively solve problems they are passionate about. I want to be remembered as someone who made a difference and improved the values of the community within Nevada.

CANDIDATE 3: Youth Legislator Lauren Wong

What is your strongest leadership quality?

I believe that my communication skill is my strongest quality. Great communication includes respecting everyone's opinion and listening well. As Vice-Chair of the Nevada Youth Legislature I feel confident that I can step up to support the Chair at all times and to support all our youth legislators.

How would you inspire youth legislators to fully engage in the Nevada Youth Legislature?

Our generation is the generation that can make positive change happen, and I believe that I can inspire our youth legislators by encouraging everyone to believe that their individual voices are valued.

What would you want your leadership legacy to be?

More than any other generation before us I believe that young people today respect diversity and people of all backgrounds. I'd want my legacy to be that of mutual respect for all. This will allow us to collaborate in ways that previous generations seem unable to do. United we can move forward together, working through differences in a civil way to achieve goals.