



## Senator

Hello Everyone!

My name is Samjana Rai, I use she/her pronouns and I am a first-year Nursing major. I'm an Asian-American immigrant who relocated to Vermont at the age of twelve. From being an EL student (English Learner) and navigating my pathway to college as a first-generation student, I have acquired skills that will allow me to contribute positively to the student body, especially to those who share similar identities to mine. My motivation for running for the SGA senate position is to represent underrepresented students within our school community and serve as a diverse voice in a position of influence.

I consider myself to be very vocal and straightforward about things I believe are essential, and need to be voiced. Since high-school, I have been an active member in student organizations. I was the founding member of Burlington High School's Heroes Club, President of the International Club and also a member of the National Honor Society. I was also part of the Superintendent Advisory where students talked about different issues within the school district with our superintendent. It was a place that gave me the opportunity to talk about the lack of opportunity for BIPOC like their enrollment in Advanced Placement classes. My concern and solutions about that issue made it to the school board who took my ideas into consideration and are trying to make changes in the school curriculum to make sure that everyone is given the same opportunity, or at least has the knowledge of opportunities that are available to them.

One issue I'm passionate about is having more BIPOC representation in positions of power to make sure everyone is being represented, and being heard. I want people like me – an immigrant who was once an EL (English Learning) student and a first generation college student, to see more representation and be able to say that if she can do it then I can also do it or at least feel some sense of inspiration through representation.

If elected, I will try my best to represent underrepresented students within our school community and advocate for them. Too often, I have seen issues that relate to underrepresented students be discussed without their voices actually being represented in the room or even considered. I want to see that change.