

Shirin Dravid's Platform:

My name is Shirin Dravid and I am running to be elected to the Senate of UVM's Student Government body. I am currently a second year student majoring in Neuroscience. All throughout my time from middle school to now, I have participated in groups to try to improve the quality of living of the people around me. If elected into the UVM SGA Senate, I hope to bring these key experiences into my work and, in doing so, put in the effort to target key issues on campus. I am currently the Vice President and Treasurer for the 2020-2021 Inter-Residence Association Executive Board, and last year served in the Central Campus Residence Hall Council as an Executive Board member. As you can see, I am experienced and extremely passionate about having student voices heard and improving the community for the benefit of my peers.

As a person of color and Asian-American student on this campus, I hope to shine a light on the issues of diversity throughout my community and do whatever I can to make students feel safe through the tension caused through the Asian and Black Communities. I also hope to increase the availability of mental health resources for students, and help create a more broad and functional networking system between SGA, students, and campus staff. I hope to collaborate with student groups to create a more accommodating and supporting space for disabled students, use my resources to foster a sense of community for new students and current students despite the hate around the country towards minority groups, and work against the issues around campus due to food insecurity. Lastly, if elected, I will do all I can to promote sustainable practices and use what I know about climate change to boost more conscious practices around campus.

One of the key times for change within my life came from 2015-2018, where I volunteered at West Hills Hospital and Medical Center in Los Angeles as a Peer Leader for the program. I worked with hundreds of patients in the area and led my peers to give these patients the best quality of life given the circumstances they were in. I have experience in working with low income families, young people, and critically injured patients around the area. From this, I was able to learn how to best serve my city and boost morale despite the excruciating and depressing states of being of those around me. I was able to work through hardship, and create programs for this hospital for the hospital to allow the work to be done even more effectively.

As you can see, I have many diverse experiences on campus and out to help aid and drive my ideas for the community. I am involved with clubs like VStep, the Sunrise Movement VT, Planned Parenthood, UVM Asian Student Union, UVM Jazbaa, the UVM Tutoring Center, and many more. These collaborations and experiences have shaped my way of thinking, so thus I will come into the Senate with an abundance of ideas and thoughts to boost SGA involvement and bring the student body into a state of healing through this pandemic.

