ZYAKKIRIAH RHODEN FOR SGA
SENATE 2020-2021

About Me:
My name is Zyakkiriah Rhoden and I am excited to announce that I am running to be a Senator on the Student Government Association. I am a rising junior majoring in Health Sciences with a minor in Community Entrepreneurship. On campus I have had the amazing opportunities of serving as the President of UVM’s Black Student Union, an Orientation Leader, and an AdvoCat (a Representative for the Admissions Office.) These experiences have inspired me to make a difference on UVM’s campus by becoming a part of SGA and uplifting the voices of all students.

Why Am I Running?
As a student from an underrepresented and marginalized community at UVM, I feel as though there is not enough representation on our governing body. I am hoping to change this notion by running for Senate because I feel that it is important for all students especially first-year students, to see people like them in these positive positions for change. My overall goal is to maintain a level of transparency that would allow students to have a sense of accessibility when it comes to their elected representatives. As the current President of the UVM Black Student Union, my passion lies with the student clubs’ organizations. These organizations all differ in mission, audiences, and activities but at their core, they all make up the different facets of the identity. My overall focus as Senator would be to ensure that all students receive the necessary resources to be successful at UVM.

What I Want to Accomplish on SGA?
• Uplift all student voices by acknowledging that everyone from every community should have a seat at the table, especially when making decisions that directly impact them and UVM as an institution.
• Work with identity-based as well as smaller Student Organizations to ensure that they have the resources they need to succeed.
• Cultivate and maintain a cordial and productive relationship with the UVM Administration because by working as one we would be able to effectively bring change across campus
• Advocate for more effective financial training for Student Organizations in order to avoid penalties from fundraised accounts.
• Implement frequent communication methods between SGA and the UVM student body in order for students to feel actively involved in the goals set by SGA for the academic year.
• Becoming more acquainted with our student body and finding new ways to become more accessible to students (because they are the ones who elected us.)