

Nicole Canonigo - External Co-Chair Personal Statement

My FSA experience began my 2nd year when I went to Friendship Games. Coming on this trip, I only knew one person and this was a definite step out outside of my comfort zone. Throughout the whole weekend I was not only introduced to so many new people from my school, but I was exposed to the largest sense of pride and solidarity among all the Filipino Student Organizations that attended this event. Since that weekend I try to find ways to challenge myself to really give back to what I have been blessed to have. I have been able to experience what FSA has to offer especially being apart of Kasama, the ballroom dance troupe for 2 years, KAMP for the past 3 years, PCC cast member for the past 2 years, volunteered for ASF for 2 years, Pilipino Historic Dialogue class, and currently the Activities Co-Coordinator and Co-Facilitator for this upcoming FSA Grad. It was not until this past school year that I really got to test my leadership skills and balance being a student organizer, full time student, and employed. I was fortunate enough to have a position on FSA Core as one the Activities coordinators and alongside my co-coordinator I was able to help organize FSA's representation at the Annual Friendship Games in Southern California. I found this to be very suiting considering that is where I started. Another aspect of being Activities coordinator I was able to be on the planning committee for the 32nd Annual Multicultural Festival. This new experience exposed me to other diverse organizations we have here on campus and how they view our organization as a whole. FSA to me is a safe space where people are able to express their appreciation for their culture while at the same time educate themselves to issues directly effecting our community as students of color. I want to share all my positive experiences in this community and help this community grow to its full potential. FSA has consistently been a support system to me both in my academics and outside of it. To me that support has helped retained me and pushed me to want to do the same for others.

After all this involvement I have had in the past 2 years I would like to run for External Co-Chair because in these past two years I feel like I have developed enough skills and leadership from my peers and alumni to help lead this community. I have so much love for this community and genuinely care about the people in this space for having made my experiences here at Santa Cruz so far such a blessing.

I would like to be given the opportunity to lead this community in a new way and alongside with FSA core I truly do believe that as the biggest ethnic organization on campus, our presence can be made an example of for the type of support we provide for one another. As external co-chair I would like to help this community realize why they joined FSA and how their presence in this space does have an impact one way or another. I feel that my passion and love for this community has evolved to fit the characteristics of external co-chair and I truly want to be able to serve this community.

My goals for FSA is for everyone to find a place in this community where they are able to express themselves and feel appreciated for doing so. I would like to be an outlet for my community as a student organizer and be reliable resources for any of my peers to help better their growth in this space. My goals for FSA core is to be a well bonded core so we are able to present ourselves as strong leadership figures, while at the same time create a strong bond between FSA Core and the rest of the community in hopes that members feel comfortable using core as another resource. FSA Core strength should be well evaluated and established because if we are not all on the same page then we cannot be that proper resource for the rest of the community. These goals relate to FSA as a whole student organization because we are able to develop leadership skills that can be passed on to our future generations to help strengthen this community as a whole and as our mission statement says we do not strive to be the sole

representation of all Filipinos at UC Santa Cruz. Being exposed to other organizations, I have come to learn how powerful collaboration can really be not only within our own university's organizations but also in solidarity with other organizations outside of UC Santa Cruz as well. My goal is to use all my experiences with working with other organizations and really foster the habit of collaboration into the FSA community.

As a leader I feel that it is important to set a good example while at the same time be able to take constructive criticism to better my skills as a student organizer. I have learned a lot from my fellow peers and feel that I am capable of passing what I have learned to other members of this community. My involvement with event attendance, aspect involvement, and core experience within this community has prepared me well to deal with diverse situations while at the same time know where to find the proper help.

As the coordinator for Activities I have learned the different factors that go into planning a huge event and how to plan according for different scenarios. I have learned that being a leader has helped me grow into a multitude of things that can help my community as a whole. Through obstacles, as a leader, I have learned handle situations in an orderly fashion. No one is perfect, but I know I will not be satisfied until my community as a whole is satisfied and taken care of. As FSA External Co-Chair I hope to represent FSA in a way that fosters growth and promotes leadership. I want to be able to hear everyone's input and take into consideration people's opinions. My love for this community would be shown through me being a steady outlet and approachable resource for everyone. Being able to serve this community in the way that it has served me would be a token of my appreciation to everyone in this space.