

North Lake College



Chapter of the Year Award

Small Acts, Transforms the World

Blazers on Top, No Sleep Never Stop.

North Lake College

Dallas County Community College District

TJCSGA Region II

2018-2019

The North Lake College Student Government Association was created to represent, communicate with, act upon, ensure student rights and needs, concerns, and social well-being to the college administration as well as the District offices in order to make a difference and build a stronger educational institution and community. Verifiably, this statement of purpose for the Student Government Association (SGA) of North Lake College is also written prominently on our social media accounts, the college website, and organization brochures around campus to ensure that the goals of the chapter at North Lake College are not forgotten and continue to be upheld. SGA does everything in its power to follow that statement to the core. Everything done is to build a stronger community, a better campus, and to assist students at our college with no limitations.

This year among previous years, North Lake SGA has been extremely productive. From participating in community events to getting involved in service projects, delegates and officers have volunteered both on and off campus for local organizations and advocated for students and student clubs and organizations on campus.

As a chapter we recognize there is always room for improvement. We do not limit ourselves when it comes to gaining knowledge, on the contrary we welcome it. As a result, our executive board members are constantly looking for opportunities such as attending leadership conferences, to improve our team dynamic. This way we are best equipped to serve our student body at a full capacity. One of the most beneficial opportunities was when our Parliamentarian served as an Election Judge in the State/Joint and 2020 Democratic and Republican Primary Election cycles, responsible for the proper and orderly voting at polling stations. As an Election Judge he also obtained the ability to hire election clerks. Before we knew it we had half of our executive board serving as election clerks. This further enhanced our knowledge on voting,

especially voting amongst young people. Because we gained a deeper understanding of the importance of voting, it inspired us to instill political efficacy in our students.

A way we were able to reach this goal was by partnering with MOVE Texas, a nonpartisan, nonprofit, grassroots organization working to build power in underrepresented youth communities through civic engagement, leadership development, and issue advocacy. Our Public Relations and Parliamentarian Officers became Volunteer Deputy Registrars (VDRs) to serve the Dallas County, particularly Irving/North Lake College, community by registering them to vote. Our Public Relations Officer is our liaison with MOVE Texas while our Parliamentarian Officer is our liaison with the Dallas County Elections Department. Both officers are in a partnership with League of Women Voters - Dallas to assist young adults in the voting process. We have a committee designed specifically for these causes within our organization.

Over the course of several years our SGA has partnered with the community to ensure that we are giving back to the city of Irving, the home of the Blazers. Our greatest partnership has been with the organization, Keep Irving Beautiful, whose mission is, “educating our community about litter abatement, recycling, and beautification in order to help preserve the health and promote the social and economic prosperity of our city.” (KIB) Our most significant event with Keep Irving Beautiful was a partnership on their Arbor Day celebration. With the common goal of educating and helping our community flourish, we were able to pull off an event that was family friendly and very valuable. It offered learning opportunities to children and adults alike about conservation, preservation and sustainability, the event wrapping up with trees being sent along with attendees to plant. Sustainability is a topic that is near and dear to the heart of North Lake, the common goal among the entire student body, faculty and staff, and

administration is making North Lake as sustainable as possible. The most effective way to do so is to also ensure that the community that surrounds it is sustainable, which is why Arbor Day was not the only event our SGA has volunteered at in order to protect our environment.

This year marked the 29th annual Trinity Trash Bash, also a Keep Irving Beautiful event in which people from around the city converged to volunteer alongside us to clean up our home. Just a few of the volunteer tasks for the Student Government Association included handing out T-shirts, picking up trash and helping with various clean-up efforts. Upon arriving at the venue, canned goods were donated by each student and t-shirts were given in reciprocation. After the event, SGA continued to volunteer by helping retrieve the equipment used during the event and loaded them into the Keep Irving Beautiful van. Following the trash pick-up, all of it was unloaded in the dumpster. This annual SGA project is an opportunity for us to repay our community for all it has done for us. The Trinity Trash Bash helped establish the Student Government Association's presence as an active organization beyond just North Lake, in a consistent and meaningful way.

In addition, the State Fair of Texas parade is an annual event which marks the opening of the State Fair. The festive processions consist of colorful floats, bands and students from different schools and colleges around the district. North Lake College volunteered to be in the parade along with the other Dallas County Schools to represent the district. The students who volunteered were members and officers from the Student Government Association, and the parade was successful in increasing the spirit of the state fair. It also illustrated what a community stands for in the Dallas County Community Colleges and the thousands of students who attend.

Another project we took part in was “Unity Walk” which was created to spread awareness for Black History Month. This event was held at North Lake College with our Student Government President as one of the key participants and planners of the event. We helped as volunteers to set up the event and guide students to the main area. Faculty, students, and community members were invited to walk, with their respective flags around the lake that is the namesake of North Lake College. A short quiz was also given to participants about black history and the differences we've all faced as a diverse community. These quizzes helped us reflect on the past and look forward with 2020 vision as we strive for unity through knowledge.

During the summer of 2019, the colleges in the Dallas County Community College District (DCCCD) gathered upcoming student leaders and took them to a retreat to gain more knowledge on leadership. To be the best officers they can be, the SGA executive board spent three days learning about servant leadership, delegating tasks, Robert’s Rules, and bonding together as a team. This gave the SGA officers a chance to learn how to be more effective leaders and gain more confidence in their responsibilities. During the retreat, officers were able to talk with the delegates from North Lake College, other DCCCD colleges, and the officers from other colleges. The entire experience was a great asset for the officer team as it was the beginning of their officer term.

North Lake College Student Government Association’s body partnered up with the Dallas Community Colleges District Outreach Team to create an event that would bring our schools together. They decided to create a Halloween Party, where space was reserved and decorated to where students could not only have fun but were able to network as well. Then we constructed a haunted maze, transforming the Fitness Center. In our Student Life Center, snacks

and games were provided for the participants to have a fun experience. The experience inspired students to come together and reflect on our 2020 vision.

North Lake has made it a priority to be involved in our District meetings. This year we attended a DCCCD collaborative meeting. At this event we expressed our concerns with how DCCCD faculties are managed and probable solutions to address them. This was done by participating in specific breakthrough activities which included important questions such as what should be prioritized, improvements in education, and services provided to students. It was enlightening because of the many ideas that were brought up which could not be possible if not done, in a collective environment. Many debated on the purpose of holding this conference if there are no further changes, but this kind of workshop exemplifies the relation between the schools and the students. These workshops motivate students to be activists for things they are passionate about. This has always been a constant issue between many of us that come from minority backgrounds, where our voices are rarely heard and acted upon.

North Lake College has been facing difficulties with student participation in school activities. With the new 8 week policy and the online trend of classes that we have been subjected to, the flow of students decreased. Clubs and organizations faced struggles in building a pipeline of members and officers. They reached out to us seeking advice on what should be done moving forward. As a voice of the people we established the Meeting of The Minds. Meeting of the minds is where all clubs and organizations come together to discuss new ideas, find solutions to problems and form a healthy environment where we all can flourish. It is proven that extracurricular activities play a major role in student success. Communication was a key to fixing many of our problems. We have grown more cohesive as a college with student success as our goal.

The 8 week class epidemic that we have faced at North Lake College came rapidly and we were all unprepared. Our students voiced their concerns endlessly and we knew we had a job to do. We started vigorous research through our faculty and staff. We researched the class history and the projected results of the future. We came across an array of information that demonstrates an evident common concern. We then ventured our research into the student body with our 8 week survey. We received 100's of responses from the survey in which students could project their stance. Moving forward we've started forming focus groups to further work on this situation. We look forward to assisting our students and continuing this journey.

Every year students go through the process of having to purchase supplies for school. Every semester school material ranges from \$200-\$500 on average. As an organization that strives for the wellbeing and the success of our students we started researching an effective way to aid our students. An angel tree seemed to be a great way for us to help the students who may need it the most. With the angel tree we ran a student a supply drive amongst faculty and staff to receive supplies such as notebooks, highlighters, pens etc. The Angel tree was structured that someone gave in a student name and we created gift bags for them with school supplies. On the first day of school the reminding supplies were given to students as they filtered through the busy hallways with their 2020 vision in sight.

Faces of Homelessness was one of the most important events that SGA had this year. After eight months of preparation and hard work, we succeeded in impacting our college by spreading awareness of the gravity of the situation. The event took place with the participation of more than 60 individuals, including our officers, administrators, and the volunteers who decided to participate in this experience. We had the opportunity to shed light on how people who face home insecurity. Clearly, this event helped each of us to create much more awareness of how

some of our students feel and deal with this type of situation. Bill Beamon helped us to live in a more real way by sharing his experience with us, and leading the Cost of Poverty Experience. Some of our volunteers collected cardboard boxes so that we could build houses to spend the night as homeless people do on a daily basis. It is important to note that in spite of the low temperatures our students showed tremendous determination and commitment to the program throughout its duration. After surviving the night, the next morning during the reflection session, Karen Spicer told us about the various problems that homeless people face every day, and how we can help them. She also shared her own experience as a homeless person, and encouraged us to continue to invest in our futures through education.

After hard work from staff and faculty this year the food pantry was finally opened and it has brought so many positive outcomes to North Lake College and further out our community. Independently Student Government Association officers and chairs diligently put all their efforts to organize a collection for the food pantry which was very successful. We had a large quantity of donations some that came from an event that we hold this year and others from local students this included cans, fruits, vegetables etc. Through our contribution we also had volunteers work shifts at the pantry, though this did directly benefit people in need it also gave us a new perspective on poverty and humbled us as individuals. More people than we think experience these circumstances but society has a tendency of shaming this in a degrading way with ideas such as you get what you work for when that might not be the case.

Furthermore, Not only does SGA focus at the local level, but it also works hard at the regional level and state level. The chapter has a great involvement in Region II and even the state level. This includes a North Lake College student formally holding the President position for the state level this past year. The President has been integral in student outreach to all of the

campuses involved in the state, as well as ensuring that the other officers on the executive board were maintaining their tasks. The North Lake Student Government Association also held and currently hold various seats in the Region II committees, such as; Chairman, Co-chairmen, Chairman for the Awards Committee, former Parliamentarian.

Sequentially, the North Lake College Student Government Association is proud to represent our Mission Statement. Every activity or event SGA does is for the benefit of the campus, community and most importantly, the students. Whether it's an organization facing issues with an advisor, volunteering for a local charity, or helping a student find their way to a classroom, every action SGA takes, counts. As servant leaders, the Student Government Association delegates and officers strive to do the right thing and to help every time. The North Lake College Student Government Association will continue to establish a bright vision wherever possible and make sure every voice on campus is heard.

As Leo Buscaglia states, "May I Suggest that giving back to the community is creating joy for others, sharing what we have for the betterment of others, bringing hope to the lost and love to the lonely." The Student Government Association at North Lake College takes the belief that our purpose is to be leaders, and everyone's voice should be heard with no limitation and without fear.



Unity Walk!



Keep Irving Beautiful!



Donating to the Food Pantry!



Arbor Day!