

North Lake College



Event of The Year

Show Up to Glow Up

North Lake College

Dallas County Community College District

TJCSGA Region II

2018-2019

Community is “a feeling of fellowship with others, as a result of sharing common attitudes, interests, and goals”. This fellowship is an integral part of life; more specifically student/campus life. As the Student Government Association at North Lake College, we strive to create a conducive environment for the student body. An environment that encourages academic success and fosters social interactions. In the fall of 2018, NLC SGA arranged a Glow Party opened to all students. Hosting a Glow Party targeted two main purposes: To raise awareness about SGA, and to attempt a direct point of socializing between SGA and its student body. The Glow Party was successful and impactful from its point of planning to execution.

As an organization that represents the voice of students at North Lake, it is crucial that the students are aware of the existence of such organization. It was our understanding from multiple occasions, that a great amount of students at North Lake have little to no knowledge of SGA and its purpose. We attempted to solve this problem by consistently having information tables in the hallways. It was a convenient method due to its week long activity from mornings to noons. Information tables although created some awareness but not to an extent to which students would show interest in participating. We came to a conclusion, information tables is an overused method that although has its benefits but did not really solve the awareness situation on campus. Students want to learn, but are more interested to learn the fun way. This is when our Vice President Aleluia Vaina and Parliamentarian Mhakeda Shillingford proposed the idea of hosting a party with multiple activities and free food. “Free food and fun always attracts an audience of college students, and a great crowd is guaranteed at this event”, said Parliamentarian Mhakeda Shillingford.

By fulfilling leadership roles on campus, we take on more than an average college student does. We invest extra hours, fulfill leadership responsibilities on campus, and hold titles that distinguish us. Along the lines of fulfilling our responsibilities as North Lake College student leaders, our student body forgot we were still students. The lesser amount who were aware of SGA viewed our organization to be “too prestige” to socialize with. It was at this point our local board knew that initiatives needed to be enacted upon to show the student body that we are their peers and their voice is our priority. We needed to show them that titles did not separate us from the student body; we are all equal. Inviting students to our general meetings gave them an insight, but because of formal seating arrangements, it did not change their view of us in the “prestige” aspect. This became an additional reason to host a party. “A social event with music, dancing and nothing but fun moments, is a great way to kick start a comfortable communication between SGA and its student body”, Mhakeda Shillingford. “It's one thing to meet with them, but its a another level of accomplishment to be able to laugh, dance and have fun with them. If we show them a side of us that isnt always in business attires and making motions, they’ll start to feel a sense of belonging and comfortability with us.”, Aleluia Vaina.

Given the purposes of hosting a party, the idea was initially presented to NLC SGA Executive Board on August 28th, 2018 by our SGA Vice President and Parliamentarian. When the idea was proposed, the executive board questioned the benefits of financial expenses on a “party”. When the issues regarding the lack of awareness and communication between SGA and the student body were thoroughly explained, the executive board took a majority vote to make the event happened. Once it was passed, Mhakeda suggested to let the membership at the general meeting on September 5th, 2018 to decide between two types of party: Masquerade

party, or glow party. The question was called upon at the general meeting and received a unanimous “yes” for a Glow Party on October 30th, 2018, the day before Halloween.

Moving forward, our local board collaboratively planned the Glow Party. Head-advisor Dr. Beth Nikopoulos reserved the Student Life Center from 7pm. to 10p.m. Co-advisor Candace Eldridge assisted our fellow officers in calculating an estimated budget for the party. Aleluia and Mhakeda requested \$450 in total from the SGA Executive Board to fund the Glow Party. Fortunately, a majority voted to approve the \$300 portion of the proposed funds where as Madam Vice President and Parliamentarian sponsored the remaining expenses.

The approved fund from SGA along with the sponsorship from two fellow officers served as a huge asset of making the Glow Party possible. Vice President Aleluia Vaina, Parliamentarian Mhakeda Shillingford and Recruitment co-chair Luis Fuentes, worked hand in hand with co-advisor Candace Eldridge to purchase party materials online a few weeks prior to the event, as well as extra decorations and food on the day of the event. In addition, Mhakeda took the initiative to book an event DJ for live entertainment. Madam Historian Precious Okafor and Public Relations Officer, Jet Lyle, worked together to advertise the Glow Party on our Blazers SGA social media accounts as well as posting flyers around campus, and visiting classrooms, sports-team, and personally handing out mini-flyers to students. The financial support and collaborative effort from the selective body of officers, co-chairs and advisors allowed the development of a successful plan for our Glow Party.

On the day of the event, our entire executive team along with advisors and co-chairs worked very hard to decorate the Student Life Center and prepare everything for our evening social event. We started decorating from 5pm. up until five minutes before the party began. The

event took over multiple rooms including a room dedicated to food and a room dedicated to movie watching. In the main Student Life center, we reserved one corner for beer pong, except without alcohol. A dance floor was drawn on the carpet using neon-colored tape. To create a festive mood, we taped the doors and poles with neon tapes, hung our led lights on the poles, and put strobe lights on the stage. In addition, we provided the students with free glow merchandise so they can feel engaged in the event.

At the hour of the event, a great amount of students showed up. At least 50 students entered the Student Life room minutes after minutes. The instant they entered the room, they began to socialize with each other, greeting with one hand and a pizza plate on the other. As soon as the music blasted, everybody joined together on the dance floor and danced as if they have known each other already. They took advantage of every activity offered during the glow party. Our food room was filled with multiple pizzas, candies, pastries, water, soda, juice, bread sticks, and much more. This wide variety of food choices was greatly appreciated by all in attendance as was told and shown by how quickly the food was eaten. From meeting each other, to dancing together, taking photoshoots with one another, to screaming in a crowd during movie shows. It was an event worth hosting and from the reaction of the crowd that night, the Glow Party served its purposes.

To establish a sense of community it takes more than just meeting one another. The Glow party gave students more than just a chance to meet one another. It gave them an insight of what SGA is and what it can offer the students. It gave them an opportunity to understand our student leaders both as students and leaders. This way we are approachable to them and comfortable to speak to. The greatest outcome we can look back to is gaining three committee co-chairs from

the Glow Party. Alison Marquez, Andrea Rios, and Sarwat Samara showed up at our general meeting the day after the Glow Party and showed interest in participating as active members of SGA. To this day, they serve North Lake College with passion and dedication. We've raised awareness for a greater population of students who stayed unnoticed of the organization that represent their voice and needs. In addition, the Glow Party allowed our student body and student leaders to surpass the barrier of communication and socialization that once existed. If North Lake College could be explained in one word, it would be inclusive. We serve to create a community where the comfortability of presenting and sharing ideas, thoughts and experiences pave a pathway towards unity and success. In unity we stand, in unity we prosper.



North Lake College

DALLAS COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

February 21, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Student Government Association's Glow Party.

This letter serves as a confirmation that North Lake College (NLC) Student Government Association (SGA) organized and entertained a "Glow Party" at NLC central campus Tuesday, October 30, 2018 from 8:00 pm until 10:00 pm in the Student Life Center.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Adriame Settles".

Adriame Settles

Manager of Programs and Event

North Lake College



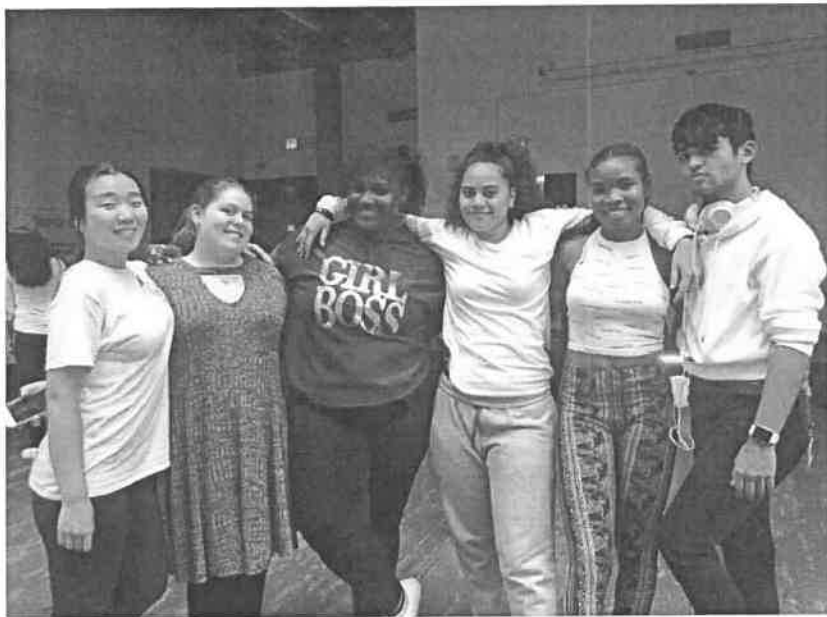
A look at one of the many flyers we posted around our campus to advertise the event.



Secretary and Committee Chair of Recruitment and Retention Luis Fuentes posing in a beautiful portrait at the photo section of the event.



Delegate Sarwat Samara giving the camera a beautiful smile! Her love and excitement for the event is evident in this photo. P.S. This event was Sarwat Samara's first experience with our SGA and it led to her running for and becoming the Co-Chair of Recruitment and Retention!



A look at some of our e-board members present at the Glow Party. A fun night for them to socialize with our student body present at the event. They sure can break a dance floor.



Our students letting loose on the dance floor. Our officers and students are enjoying being around one another in positive energy.