

**TJCSGA Region 2019 - 2020
Advisor of the Year: Richland College
Kelly Sonnanstine
Title: Guidance into the Future**



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Guidance into the Future

Have you ever been at two crossroads in need of direction? Everyone has at one point in their life, but have you ever had someone walk with you to mentor you in the right direction like a, “Fairy Godmother?” Fortunately, Kelly is that Fairy Godmother that will advise you on the steps to take in the right direction of any situation that an officer or a senator may be in when they are lost, along the road in a circumstance. The reason that officers and senators look to Kelly for directions is because she is willing to have understanding of the dilemma that you are in and patients to help you get out of your circumstance. Therefore, Kelly can lead you to the right people to help you, using her leadership skills and wisdom that she possessed to give you advice. Either gives you enlightenment about your attitude or confidence within yourselves because she wants you to become a better you because there is only one you. For example, here are some students’ testimonies about the advice and guidance that Kelly has given to her officers and senators to lead them in the right direction below:

One officer stated, “Miss Kelly always reminds me that in any situation a leader is in they should keep calm, find a solution to keep the peace, and show respect to others. For instance, there was one time that I was mad at my officers and I remember that I had been hash to them. Consequently, she had pulled me aside about my communication skills, and stated, “You are President you should be nice and show respect to others no matter how upset you may be because to get respect you have to show respect.”

One senator stated, “One day my boss made me extremely mad that I wanted to step out of my character and not use soft communication skills towards my boss. In addition, I went outside, broke down, and cried; therefore, Miss Kelly saw me gave me direction on the

choices that I had then made me laugh to continue my day in a positive manner. If it was not for Kelly I would have lost my job that day, thank you Miss Kelly!”

When in need of a shoulder to lean on, go to Kelly. When in need of a shoulder to cry on, go to Kelly. When in need of directions into the right path, go to Kelly. When you are in need of anything just, go to Kelly.

Individuals are bombarded with options that can make or break their path into the future in their everyday lives. As college students, we are still learning how to sort out all of our activities and classes; however, our chapter has been blessed to have Miss Kelly to mentor us on how to be better officers and human beings. Miss Kelly always goes above and beyond to support our chapters and help us remain competitive. It is her leadership skills that keep us motivated and she serves as a role model to us to surpass our limits each year. She has proven over and over again that she is a valuable asset to Richland College and Texas Junior College Student Government Association. Miss Kelly has contributed her time and skills to such local, community, regional and state activities. As a result, Miss Kelly should be considered as the 2019-2020 advisor of the year due to her many accomplishments and an incredible commitment to the Student Government Association (SGA) and her guidance to mentor her officers when they are in need of advice.

Section 1: Advisor’s role in their local SGA

Leaders naturally bring quality skills to any organization that they are a part of; therefore, that is what makes them a valuable asset. Miss Kelly is a leader that has laid down the building blocks for her officers and senators to have a bright future for 2020. Miss Kelly has been serving as the primary advisor of the Student Government Association (SGA) at Richland College for 5 years. She shows passion, dedication, and works diligently to make events happen for the students at Richland College. In addition, she always ensures everything that is related with SGA such as

Eboard meetings and events are carried out efficiently. Miss Kelly is more than just an advisor to officers and senators because she always goes out of her way. For instance, here are some students' statements about Miss Kelly's impact on SGA below:

One officer stated, "Our advisor has helped conduct powerful, moving town hall meetings that discuss Voters Awareness, Gun Violence in America, Immigration Policy, and Women's Rights. Each panel has knowledgeable individuals that have experiences and degrees to give our students the best advice. The best part of the town hall meeting students can ask questions, which is what I love about them."

One senator stated, "Miss Kelly's creativity really sparkled this year as she helped us to organize our voter registration drive; therefore, we were able to expand our project into 5 separate buildings on campus which we kept staffed with volunteer deputy registrars from the Richland Votes Initiative."

Another senator stated, "Before SGA throws an event Miss Kelly will help officers and senators request the rooms, create outside of the box name tags, and make sure our equipment is set up for our events to run smoothly in a timely manner."

Consequently, if it was not for Richland's SGA advisor Miss Kelly we would not have had a strong foundation for the future of 2020. In addition, this has illustrated to our officers and senators the significance of having a chief lead the tribe into success. In short if it was not for Miss Kelly, there would not have been an outstanding Student Government Association representing Richland today.

Section 2: Advisor's role in community events not associated with SGA

Miss Kelly not only helps out with Student Government Association events held on campus, but others not pertaining with SGA. She has gone above and beyond to ensure that the

Food Truck, Food Pantry, Student Orientation, and Welcome Back Bash is outstanding for the students who attend Richland College and the community. As a result, Miss Kelly puts her heart and soul in making sure that each event is the best it can be; for example, here are some statements about Miss Kelly work ethic:

One volunteer for the food pantry stated, “Miss Kelly has impacted Richland’s Food Pantry a lot throughout the years and still now. She goes above and beyond her role as an advisor and coordinator in the betterment of making sure we have a successful food pantry. She always reaches out to organizations that help can help give more food to the food pantry and promote the food pantry to make sure every student is aware that we have one whenever they are in need.”

One volunteer for the food truck stated, “Miss Kelly is compassionate about constructing, organizing, and managing of the Food Truck to make sure it thrives to be the best for students on campus and the community that is why I appreciate Miss Kelly.”

One volunteer for Welcome Back Bash, “Welcome Back Bash offered at the beginning of every semester, for fresh face and new clubs or organizations; therefore, every semester Miss Kelly thinks, plans, works on new projects because she cares about the enrichment of students who attend Richland College.”

Leaders are not born they are formed and molded through experiences and challenges. For a leader to leave their legacy behind they always leave a positive mark on the people they have encountered. That is what Miss Kelly has done because she has been engraved in each officer’s and senator’s heart forever. Miss Kelly is a good role model, adviser to every student, and service to the community. She strives to educate the students who attend Richland College and the community to be our society.

Section 3: Advisor's role in TJCSGA region 2 activities

TJCSGA Region 2 has benefited from Miss Kelly throughout the years. Currently she is serving as the Co-Advisor for the Region 2 Executive Board 2019 - 2020. She also has served as the 2017-2018 Host School advisor for Region 2 and also the 2017-2018 Co-Advisor for the Region 2 Executive Board. Also Miss Kelly has served as the co-advisor for the Awards committee where she works to make sure that everyone is on the same page. She has also helped the TJCSGA Eboard in diligently executing their works and keeping everyone on track by holding meetings and planning for the regional conference. She has also helped in advising students from other schools during a crisis while their own advisor was unavailable. With her experiences in organizing large events at Richland College, Miss Kelly organized and executed both the Fall and Spring Conferences with a topic and dazzle that could equal any huge scope occasion with a with a budget.

Section 4: Advisor's role in TJCSGA State activities

Helping out with awards with all schools, always willing to help out and jump when she is needed shows she is willing to put others first. In spite of the fact that Miss Kelly's works as a full time employee as the coordinator for New Student Orientation (NSO) and our college food pantry/food truck keeps her too occupied to even consider making an enormous responsibility to TJCSGA on a state level. Every year before travelling to the State conference, our chapter goes through multiple training sections where Miss Kelly explains on what to expect, how to behave and "What is business dress," to "Using table manners". 2020 is going to be Miss Kelly's 5th trip to the TJCSGA conference. In 2017 Miss Kelly helped in our school's campaign for state secretary. In 2018, Miss Kelly filled in as the co-advisor for the Legislative Committee at the State level. Also she filled in as the "fill in" advisor when the President School Advisor had a commitment

that couldn't be missed. One of the greatest things about Miss Kelly is that she has the mindset and the will to help out and jump when she is needed. She always finds solutions and always helps students when needed without saying no even if she is busy. She goes above and beyond her role as an Advisor to help students. She is a role model for us and also for every student.

Conclusion

Every officer and senator that is a part of the Student Government Association has edges that need to be polished; for example, communications skills, finding a middle ground in disagreements, time management, learning how to plan an event, budgeting, creating fundraisers, etc. On that account, Miss Kelly retains leadership and life skills that could polish every officer and senator edges that they can apply to their lives to assist them along their journey. Therefore, along Miss Kelly's journey she has possessed skills that she has passed down to coachable officers and senators. These members of SGA have benefited tremendously by applying the leadership and life lesson skills that they have learned from Miss Kelly. Therefore, officers and senators have expressed that Miss Kelly has played a vital role in their college life. For instance, here are some students' verification about the positive influences and leadership skills that Kelly has install in her officers and senators below:

One officer stated, "Miss Kelly has been on top of every chapter events. She helped the SGA officers brainstorm topics that were impactful and thought provoking for our student body to consider. We took the ideas we had and transformed them into a town hall style discussion."

Another office stated, "If you have a good idea, act upon it. For last year's scrapbook, we had an old school movie reel as a prop for our book. It was made of plywood and we were supposed to spin it by hand. However, I had an idea to use a motor to get it to spin by itself,

but I thought that would be too much and I was not sure how it would work. She immediately ordered a motor and even though it took some figuring out it helped us win the scrapbook award.”

One senator stated, “Miss Kelly is a role model to me. Her leadership skills have really impacted me a lot. Her way of planning and executing events and also coordinating them have shown me how to become better, efficient and effective. The skills that I have adapted from her have helped me a lot in my leadership positions in other organizations and executing events at Richland College.”

Another senator stated, “The leadership skills that I have learned from Miss Kelly are that a leader is organized, led by an example, makes sure everyone is on the course in completing their job. However, most importantly Miss Kelly always keeps us in mind when opportunities arise on campus.”

Good leaders take the initiative and take it upon themselves to solve problems. Miss Kelly is usually the one putting in the most thought, effort, and planning; as a result, taking risk and learning new skills to solve any problem that she takes upon herself to solve. In conclusion, this year 2020 vision advisor has led her senators and officers in the right direction for them to have a successful year. As a result, for all of her dedication, advice, and being there for others no matter how chaotic her day makes her a perfect candidate to receive the 2019-2020 advisor of the year award.



Richland College

DALLAS COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

February 25, 2020

To whom it may concern:

I would like to nominate Kelly Sonnenstine for Outstanding Regional Adviser with the Texas Student Government Association for her excellent work helping students learn about civics, civic participation and what it means to be a U.S. citizen. She and SGA do this through informative student activities, exciting campus events and community collaborations.

With a campus of 20,000 full-time students who hail from 130 different countries and speak 79 different languages, civics has been in the forefront of many students' minds during the 2019-2020 school year. In response to changing U.S. immigration policy, SGA coordinated an immigration town hall meeting that was well attended. They have also held town hall meetings on gun violence in America, voter awareness and have a program on women's history scheduled for March. With the Super Tuesday primary coming up, SGA hosted voter registration on campus and have two census awareness events on the schedule.

SGA has collaborated with Richland Student Media on several occasions allowing students in both organizations to learn about the importance of journalism to democracy. SGA representatives visit the newsroom regularly to offer story ideas and participate in interviews. Kelly and her students host a weekly radio show in which they discuss student and community issues. And, in an exciting turn of events, SGA and Student Media leadership participated in a town hall meeting with the Dallas County Community College Chancellor, Dr. Joe May, for a discussion of the college consolidation into a "one college" model.

Kelly Sonnenstine has provided excellent leadership to SGA as an organization and inspired her students to raise their expectations of themselves and the world around them. She has done this in a fun and accessible way and shown her students that they too can make a difference. Kelly Sonnenstine is highly deserving of this award.

Sincerely,

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Miss Kelly @ Richland



