

September 25, 2023

ASUMW Senator Statement

Savannah Yvonne Draper

I am a native Nevadan, and have been raised in a rural, agricultural valley in Northern Nevada all my life. Growing up in my hometown it became incredibly easy to become involved at an early age and continue throughout high school. During my high school athletic career, I represented the high school Volleyball, Dance, and Track Team for 4 years as not only an ALL-STATE player and competitor but additionally the honor and responsibility of Captain. Out of bounce from my sports, I proudly represented my high school as a member of The Link Crew Club (Invitation only) to welcome and include incoming first-year students), Student Senate as a Representative, Secretary, and Vice President, The Rotary Interact Club as a member, Western Nevada Community College dual enrolled student, and The National Honor Society as Secretary.

Whether I am stepping into the white lines of the court, or onto the podium during a meeting, these pursuits and organizations played significant roles in the transformation of the timid under classman I was into the outgoing, determined, and unstoppable senior I have become. Throughout my fulfilled high school experience, the positions I held not only benefited me as a person, student and leader but also taught me valuable lessons and skills I can utilize in various situations. I have obtained skills such as effective communication, time and financial management, leadership, accountability, strategy, confidence, empathy. With these skills also comes the ability to acquire more knowledge with listening and observation than gained from speaking. During my Senior and Junior years of high school, I took on the personal challenge of achieving 100 hours of community service, and I achieved my goal, going above and beyond obtaining over 180 recorded hours of serving my community. I began my community service as a young girl with my family, beautifying the County Courthouse yard. I was taught to give back to the community at a young age, being included in events like this and receiving the opportunity to participate creates inspiration and truly instills the meaning behind a community.

Moving from Nevada to Montana, leaving behind everything I have ever known, such as my family, loved ones, hometown, culture, and lifestyle to begin an entirely new life is beyond terrifying. Due to the sturdy foundation my community, mentors and family provided for me; I developed the confidence to step outside of my comfort zone in hope of bettering the world we live in. I wish to be a Senator at the University of Montana Western to introduce and provide a

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voice for the underclass who are in the same spot I began in, uncomfortable and anxious being an understatement, I'd like to provide a supportive backbone for students to fall upon when struggling and unsure. I firmly believe within the past month of attending UMW, I am finding myself making a positive and impactful difference. This could not be done without the prior sturdy foundation I was provided. Many students struggle to find this without reaching for that helping hand I hope to lend. I would be honored to represent the ASUMW as not only a Senator but an ethical leader and open hand, someone, somewhere is reaching out for.