Olivia Gonzales

I am very excited to be applying for an Alumni Trustee position at Bergen Community College. My goal in this position is to be hands on, listen to the students, as well as contribute to their positive experience at this school. I started my college experience at Bergen Community College in 2018. I was immediately welcomed by the advising team and was guided through the best classes to take based on what my aspirations were after graduating. I was fortunate enough to work with a temporary advisor who helped me plan my entire academic career while I would be attending Bergen. I spent the first two semesters attending classes at the Lyndhurst campus and was very pleased with it. I loved that it was one building, a small campus with minimal traffic and easy to locate. My first time attending the Paramus campus was Summer of 2019, where I was pleasantly surprised. I was nervous to attend a bigger campus, but attending classes during an "off semester", definitely helped me gain confidence I needed for my last year. During the Fall semester of 2019, I was inducted into Phi Theta Kappa and later was accepted as a leadership board member where I was appointed to be the newsletter Editor. Along with working with Phi Theta Kappa, in my spring and final semester at Bergen Community College, I had the opportunity to work in the Violence Intervention Prevention Center. I worked with a small team and we would educate and advocate to students and faculty who are survivors of sexual assault and violence. We would listen to students' cases, and help them find the support appropriate and needed based on their specific situation. My last year at Bergen Community was my best year and while I thoroughly enjoyed taking classes at the Lyndhurst campus, I do wish I had been at the Paramus campus so I would have been able to spend more time with the people I so easily connected with!

In the fall, I will be attending Montclair State University for their Nutrition/Dietetics program. I plan on completing their Bachelor's/Master's program. I will be staying in Bergen County throughout my academic career and will be able to attend meetings at Bergen Community College or virtual.

My main goal as an alumni trustee would be to accommodate, respect, and efficiently address the reasonable requests of students. I believe that the student body at Bergen makes the experience that much better and having a positive experience at Bergen also aids in a student's performance and involvement in school activities. I am willing to learn further about community college protocols and operations and will be sure to approach the information provided to me with the utmost professionalism as I understand both the college business as well as the student would be affected. I would make my best efforts to attend all meetings that requested my presence and the only reason I wouldn't be able to would be if I were unable to leave a class or leave work with enough time to attend the meeting. I understand that it would be in my best interest to attend these meetings in order for me to perform in my position to the best of my ability.