

My name is Valentina Munoz, I am a Criminal Justice major and I'm applying for the position of Legislative Affairs manager for the BCSGA. When I was younger I knew my passion was criminal Justice; when asked what I wanted to be when I grew up the answer was always the same, "I want to be a lawyer." I was a small ball of dedication and passion, filling my schedule to the brim getting everything in it done and adding more till it was overfilled, with no hesitation to do everything with a smile and joy. My first year in high school I joined the Forensics team (Don't be fooled by the name, it has nothing to do with dissection and more to do with political topics and debating), In this club there are two forms of debate policy and LD(Lincoln Douglas debate) I got lucky to have a coach that taught only policy which was 2 on 2 debate meaning working with a partner. I knew this was my passion and I was there to win. My class called me a homewrecker for going through partners-like outfits but I felt no one else in that club matched my passion for it which was causing us to lose matches. So I begged my amazing coach to let me do LD(1v.1) debate for one competition to prove myself. After many no's she let me have my chance and since she couldn't coach it she helped me get in contact with people that could help, and I taught myself the rest of the way. My first competition I was far from prepared and didn't have the two main things I needed yet I still came out victorious winning all my rounds. After that competition which was already towards the end of my freshman year, my coach thought it was fit to throw me headfirst into varsity making me the only varsity debater and only LD debater at my high school for a while. Being mostly self-taught I was terrified but extremely excited. My sophomore year was filled with many 3rd place achievements and although I didn't make it to state I did rank 6th seat for the state qualification tournament. Under pressure, all I did was strive.

With all that I was so excited to see what my other years would hold. Facing many personal issues, covid, and the loss of my biggest supporter a big cloud formed around that passion. My big smile was replaced with fear of putting myself out there and depression. Instead of being that ball of passion, I turned to a clutter of anxiety. Freshman year I was able to talk in front of a room full of people with no fear yet if you asked me to do that yesterday you would probably find me curled up in a ball panicking. I say yesterday because today is a new day after learning about this position I felt the passion ignite in me again. I let that anxiety dictate a lot of my life and I will not let it do that anymore. At the end of the day, you control your life. Although fear and anxiety may be a part of life sometimes we have to let it run its course but you get to choose when it's done you don't need to let fear take you over this is your world as much as it is mine. The reason why I am applying for this position is because I am tired of letting myself live in fear of success. When I told my mom about this she asked what I was scared of. My fear wasn't not getting the position, it was getting it. I was terrified of the possibility of being successful and everything that came with it. When opportunities fall into your lap

you can't fear them because then you will lose them. Talking to people is scary; putting yourself out there is nothing short of terrifying but it's time to put on those floaters and get back in the pool because you got it, we got it, I got it. This life is full of endless possibilities, you just need to immerse yourself in them, and turn that fear into passion instead of letting the fear turn you. I know how overwhelming it can be to immerse yourself not just in college life but in life as a whole. As legislative affairs manager I will do everything in my power to make you feel heard and understood. As someone that went through the ups and downs, I will be understanding of yours and help voice your fears creating them into passions just like I did with mine.

The Bakersfield student government is here to be a voice for your concerns, to make you feel safe and understood, to be a group of people that face the ups and downs of student life that you can relate to. We are all humans going through this cycle. I'm not here to hide how anxious I am about this position; Anxiety is a part of life, I'm here to show you that even with it you can accomplish everything that you dream of and more. No matter what you are battling you have a community here full of people that can relate and understand. Having me as one of your representatives I can reassure you with full transparency and clarity on new policies and issues that can affect you as a student. An issue that is bothering you is an issue I will help voice till we can mark it as resolved.