

ENG-B Student Senator Nomination Statement

Jessica Nicholson

My name is Jessica Nicholson. I am a sophomore in Mechanical Engineering with a minor in Business. I am your current Student Engineering Senator of the Illinois Student Government, and I am seeking to be re-elected for next year to continue my work. I value being well-invested in our university community, so I am also the President of Illini Rotaract—a community service organization on campus associated with Rotary International, former event chair of the Society of Women Engineers, and a Peer Leader for the Innovation Living-Learning Community.

As an engineer, I am working towards my career goal to design and develop renewable energy and sustainable systems. I plan to create more effective, efficient, and cost-effective renewable energy technology in the industry, and if necessary, develop new technologies for specific areas and purposes. By doing so, I will contribute to efforts against the progression of climate change and be a part of the technological development that helps overcome the issues we face today as a local and global community.

I have been part of the Illinois Student Government for nearly two years. During my freshman year, I was the Liaison to the Champaign County Board of the Illinois Student Government. I had the opportunity to work with County Board members, provide input for their policies, and ensure that each of their resolutions were in the best interest of our university and its surrounding communities. This past year, as a Student Senator and member of two committees, I have created resolutions and programs that directly address student and community issues on campus. For example, I co-authored a resolution to replace 3 credit hours of current gen-ed requirements across all majors with an environmental sustainability gen-ed requirement. This aims to give students more education in environmentally sustainable practices within a career. I also contributed to two resolutions that promote greater diversity and inclusivity on campus while targeting hate. Currently, I am working on a resolution to create a new university website, green.illinois.edu. This website of the illinois.edu domain would more effectively connect students to research, career, and educational opportunities related to sustainability in multiple fields. It can be the first of many illinois.edu domain websites that connect students to opportunities of other specific focuses.

Implementing resolutions to positively impact our university is one of the main reasons I am a senator. If re-elected, I will continue my work as well as focus on some additional issues. I will ensure that the university considers the input of all its students, because we, as students, deserve progress that enables us to succeed and to be heard. I will also enact more policies that promote inclusivity, environmental sustainability on campus, affordable materials, and strong funding for research, startups, and technological development. Each of these will have a positive impact on us as students and on our surrounding communities. Vote for me, Jessica Nicholson, to ensure progress and create positively impactful change on our campus for what matters most.