

ALL students in Maryland deserve to be represented.

Hi, my name is Toluwanimi Dapo-Adeyemo, I'm a junior at North Point High School in Charles County, and I am running to be your next 1st Vice President of the Maryland Association of Student Councils.

I am a strong believer in the power of the student voice, and its ability to make change. My previous experience with student leadership has taught me just what we are capable of as the world leaders of tomorrow, and that we shouldn't take these things lightly. A few of these past leadership experiences include, but are not limited to: Serving as a Maryland Association of Student Councils' State Legislative Affairs Coordinator for two terms, and serving on the Charles County Association of Student Councils' Executive Board as the Chief of Staff and Webmaster. Outside of student government, I also serve as the Vice President for the Charles County NAACP Youth Council.

These titles are not important because of their fancy names, but because of the impact I've been able to have on my community and my peers. I have been able to grasp the kinds of issues we have and see from multiple perspectives what needs to be fixed. I am aware of what kind of sacrifices need to be made to succeed in a leadership position like this one, and I am ready and willing to do so.

Your 1st Vice President should be someone who is committed to inclusivity and accountability for every school and student that is not yet part of MASC, but wants to be. There are so many schools that have yet to become member schools with students who would love to become part of MASC, but can't, whether it be lack of action on the part of advisors and administrators, or simply not having enough information, and not knowing where to find out more. There are areas of Maryland who aren't as active in MASC as they'd like to be due to distance and issues with logistics, such as the Eastern Shore and the Western Division. I want to implement my ideas to try to work towards finding solutions to these issues, and usher MASC into a new era; one where ALL students are seen. I plan on centering 3 things as 1st VP:

Advocacy, Leadership, and Loyalty.

Advocacy is crucial to what MASC is at its core. It is what mobilizes us to go out and educate students and adults alike on the issues Maryland students face today, and what we can do to stop it. With advocacy, I plan on speaking up for school safety, because ALL students deserve to feel safe at school. Having served as an MASC's State Legislative Affairs Coordinators for two years in a row, I've become acquainted with the state legislature and the process of advocating for bills to pass. I plan on using this prior knowledge to advocate for bills that support the overall welfare for Maryland students, and emphasize those that will help our underrepresented students have a voice.

Leadership is a motif of MASC that has lasted for years, and I fully plan on carrying that torch. You deserve a leader that is capable, passionate, and determined. I know the weight that this position carries, and I promise that I will wear it as a badge of honor. There would be no greater pleasure than being able to give back to this amazing community of student leaders that has given so much to me. I promise that I will immerse myself in student-related issues across the state, because you deserve a leader that is committed to understanding your issues.

Loyalty is something I pride myself in. Whenever I assume a new leadership position, I make sure to put my best foot forward and fulfill the expectations of that position without fail. My mother always told me to "have a spirit of excellence" growing up, and I've operated with this in mind for my entire life. I will be loyal to the students of MASC, because you deserve a leader that is in it for YOU, and I will be that leader.

ALL students in Maryland are important, and not a single one deserves to be left behind. Thank you MASC, and vote Toluwanimi Dapo-Adeyemo for 1st Vice President.