

Allow me to introduce myself! My name is Veronica Danko, I am from Princeton, New Jersey, and I would love to be your class president.

Firstly, I would like to sincerely thank everyone who signed my petition to run as your first year class president. Whether we had a fun conversation in or outside the hub, or I ran up to you desperately as the time neared the deadline for my petition to be complete, it was a fantastic opportunity to meet all of you, and your help in my campaign has been very much appreciated.

I am an outgoing individual who likes to have a good time. I enjoy academics, and am constantly pushing to expand my range of knowledge, understanding, and empathy. Most importantly, I have always enjoyed working in leadership positions, especially with groups of peers and classmates. The birth of this love for leadership was during my latter 2 years of high school, when I attended my school's annual leadership conference. Myself and 40 other students from my school gathered to learn leadership, cooperation, communication, and teamwork skills. We used nothing but ourselves, the large empty log cabin which we used as our workspace, and the 13 members of the Senior Leadership Team to guide us through these very activities. Throughout these group tasks, activities, and discussions, I learned a lot of valuable skills for navigating the dynamics of a group that not only served me well in the classroom once I returned to school, but also in my everyday life and interactions with others. I enjoyed and learned so much from my first year at the conference, that the following year, I applied to become one of the Senior Leaders myself, along with 10 other classmates of mine, who spent the winter of our senior year planning out how to teach the new underclassmen the very skills that we had learned ourselves.

The reason I provided that backstory is because I believe that leadership skills, effective communication, and being able to work productively in a group are essential to being class president. I believe I have those very skills and qualities to bring to the table. I know they will serve me well when it comes to being a liaison between the students in my class, and the school itself. Furthermore, I want to continue learning about what it means to be a leader in the process of serving as your president.

Ever since I arrived at Dickinson, just under two weeks ago, I have felt nothing but welcomed by all of the people and friends that I have met during orientation activities, sat with during mealtimes, chatted to out on Britton Plaza, or simply just stopped to say a quick hello to whilst walking back to my dorm after a class during the day. I have already noticed in the short time I have been living here, that we have so much potential to be a successful and united class. As we all found out during Convocation, we are surrounded by so many incredibly talented classmates in such a wide range of endeavors - and even for those who can't say they have achieved much in their previous years of school, I want you to know that the time to do so is now. The time to learn the instrument you've always wanted to learn, or try a new sport is now. The time to meet new people and engage in clubs and organizations that you haven't before is now. And the time to use the privilege of this education to push your academic boundaries to their fullest extent is now.

My goal as your president, is to do my absolute best to work with the Student Senate to make sure that you all feel as comfortable as possible during your first year here, and be sure to listen to your needs and answer your questions so that your adjustment to college life is as smooth as it can be. I don't want all of us to just feel accepted here at Dickinson, I want us to feel welcomed. I want us to feel encouraged, and unafraid to reap the benefits of which this campus has so many to offer. I know I have not been at this school any longer than you who is reading this, but I know I want to help us, the class of 2020, get our Dickinson experience off to a great start. As individuals, and as a community, I will be there for you, as your class president. And together, we will make sure the end of our time here at Dickinson is just as great as it begun. Thank you.