

Hello Dickinson College Class of 2021:

Welcome! My name is Vlada Watkins, and I intend to represent my peers by running for one out of the eight positions for First Year Class Senator. I know that as a community we do not know each other very well, but I hope to find a better way (such as giving speeches) to fix this superficial process so that future candidates will become familiar colleagues when they, too, run for similar positions. But since I am working with a system, I will gladly introduce myself here. I was born and raised in Kazakhstan (a country below Russia) as a child and then was adopted and moved to Atlanta, Georgia. Although I am no longer able to speak Russian fluently, I am very much familiar with the process of finding a welcoming place and turning it into a home. If I may shed light onto one of the many things that I have learned in life thus far, the place of said home is not what matters—it is the people that matter and who lead us on fulfilling journeys. Taking this into account, as First Year Students, we have a powerful voice that must be fueled in order to find our true nature. My genuine smiles, weirdly approachable spirit, and willingness to listen will guarantee a safe platform for all of us to find our fire, the light that makes each of us unique from one another, and then use that flame to create the best version of Dickinson College from previous years. One of the many goals I have for myself and want to deliver as a First Year Class Senator is to constantly challenge myself as a human being. I want to listen, think, come up with plans, and execute my ideas and turn them into realities for all of us. I want to promote awareness on mental health issues, organize activities that will leave people smiling and closer than ever before, come up with plans on how to become a more diverse community, and (not in the least) finding better ways to maintain sustainability on campus. These are only a few out of the many goals that I have and wish to explore. I am hoping that as a unite you all will trust the process and my desire to better our community. It would be a wonderful opportunity if I could serve as one out of the eight First Year Class Senators at Dickinson College. I hope to cross paths with all of you. Thank you!

- Vlada Watkins :)