

Amanda Karpinski

Alumni Trustee Candidate

I take pride in having the opportunity to serve my fellow peers and hope to continue that honor by serving the student body of BCC as Alumni Trustee. As Chapter President of Phi Theta Kappa, I met with students, professors and administrators to find out how I could serve the Bergen family. Now, as the International President of Phi Theta Kappa, I aim to serve the entire student population of two year colleges and to discover how I can improve student-professor relationships. Considering how community colleges are governed, by both the state and county, it can seem overwhelming to ensure that students' are kept at the highest priority. I have learned in my experience that by being persistent and consistent, students will remain the number one priority of this education system. By gaining an in-depth understanding of the struggles that community colleges face and how students can improve the quality of education they receive, I know that I am a qualified candidate to serve as Alumni Trustee.

Working as a tutor in the Henry and Edith Cerullo Learning Center on campus, I experienced first-hand how students push through difficult subjects and succeed in their classes when we reach out for help. As Alumni Trustee, I would like to see that all students receive that support throughout their educational career at Bergen. I would like to re-organize the registrar's office so that students feel supported as soon as they walk into Bergen's doors and have a clear understanding of where to go for registering for classes and how to navigate financial aid. For the past year I have served as the Student Representative on Phi Theta Kappa's Board of Directors and successfully spearheaded the creation of a new recognition award for student members as well as passing PTK's first Constitution since 1965.

Throughout my educational career at Bergen, I learned how important collaboration is. I have attended weekly meetings for PTK and regularly met with administrators while overseeing

annual projects. As Alumni Trustee, I would continue that collaboration by working with SGA, college administration, and other clubs on campus, such as the Honors Association. I will be attending Rutgers Newark which is a short drive to BCC's campus, which would allow me to attend meetings and to continue to foster collaborative relationships and serve the college in any way I can.