

Alicia Ryan

OΔK Candidate Statement

I am pleased to submit my resume to the Omicron Delta Kappa Board of Trustees for consideration to fill the Student Representative position. I have served as the University of Baltimore Circle president for the past year. In this role, I was tasked with rebuilding the circle in funding and programming. I took on this task as I feel passionate about Omicron Delta Kappa's work in honoring, shaping, and creating a community of future leaders.

Leadership is not something I have sought out. Instead, like many leaders, I found myself placed in situations where leadership was needed, and I felt compelled to represent the communities I am a part of and care for. In taking on leadership roles throughout my academic and professional careers and personal life, I found that I was an effective leader and respected by my peers and mentors. I have accomplished this by being a leader who listens to the needs of the community. By doing so, I have built a strong executive board at the University of Baltimore that I feel is capable of leading the circle when I depart from the position of President in May of 2024 and building on the programming we have installed for years to come. In addition to my role in ODK, I also serve as a Senator on the Student Government Association. As a Senator, I serve on the SGA Finance Committee, Constitutional Revision Committee, and Events Committee.

My ability to lead by example and by listening to the needs of the community while creating innovative and effective means of meeting these needs expands to my leadership positions outside of the University of Baltimore. I currently serve on the board of the Parents Association at the Friends School of Baltimore, where I represent the Lower School Division and previously co-chaired their signature fundraising event, Night Out with Friends. I also worked closely with my community association and neighbors to initiate a neighborhood cleanup, partnering with Trash Free Maryland to address dumping in Powder Mill Park.

All these leadership roles have different stakeholders. I can adapt to the needs of each position to best represent and serve these various demographics. However, one common theme exists, and that is having the ability to listen. I listen to parents, fellow students, faculty/staff, and my community to help them have a united voice when seeking change, advocating for assistance, or creating programming. In listening to the communities I serve, I have effectively reinvigorated a student organization, voiced concerns and advocated for students and parents, hit fundraising goals, and provided inclusive programming to diverse communities.

As the Student Representative to the Board of Omicron Delta Kappa, I would bring my varied professional and leadership experience to an organization that exemplifies the strong community network future leaders need. Leaders come in many forms, and I am honored to be among the diverse community of leaders ODK has brought together. During the ODK conference in Atlanta, GA, in November 2023, I was awestruck by the sense of community, collaboration, and acceptance I found among a diverse group of collegiate and organizational leaders. Though we came from different types of higher education institutions and varied in age, degree attainment, race, gender (and gender identity), religion, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic backgrounds, there was a sense of support and encouragement that I was honored to be a part of. I will continue to speak to and collaborate with my fellow ODK officers and learn from them, as I hope they can learn from me.

As I hand over the presidency of the University of Baltimore circle to future leaders and wrap up my tenure serving on the Parents Association of Friends School, I feel that I will have the motivation and time to be an asset to the Board of Trustees as a Student Representative. I want to work with and listen to other ODK members to build robust, longstanding programs that encourage and foster future leaders. I hope to bring my community-oriented experience and varied professional abilities to the Omicron Delta Kappa organization.