



# PARKER LEPPINK

## ACADEMIC VICE PRESIDENT

Fellow friends and colleagues at SUU, I am Parker Leppink, and I am thrilled to announce my candidacy for the Vice President of Academics. Serving as the College of Education and Human Development Senator in the student senate, I have gained valuable experience. As a student majoring in Elementary Education, I have demonstrated leadership abilities through teaching in various classroom settings. My strong leadership, organizational, and communication skills make me a suitable candidate for this role.

I have worked very hard in my position from this past year and would strive to do my best work with the student academic senate including the senators and representatives who make up the team. This year was a great year for the senate and I want to continue that momentum and strengthen it for next year. Here are some of my goals for the year that I would like to implement as the VP of Academics:

- **Enhance Student Engagement and Sense of Belonging** - During my time in the student senate, I organized the semesterly college week and arranged events with complimentary food to encourage student participation. Moving forward, I aim to collaborate with all colleges to secure funding for tailored events and explore unique scholarship opportunities, similar to my initiatives as the College of Education and Human Development Senator.
- **Increase Training Opportunities on Campus for Students and Student Leaders** Mental health is a significant concern for students, and there are numerous services and resources available that are not widely recognized. To address this issue, I propose collaborating with the student senate to organize college-level events aimed at providing training on the various resources. Additionally, I have observed a low number of training on mental health for student leaders. Therefore, I intend to partner with professional staff and the student body president to expand the number of training sessions and tailor them to better meet the needs of both students and student leaders.
- **Organize Events to Foster Unity between Students and the Student Senate** - Currently, there exists a disconnect between the student body and the student senate, with limited media coverage of the senate's activities and minimal interaction between students and the senate on a broader scale. My objective is to collaborate with the upcoming senate to arrange events that actively involve both students and the student senate. These events will serve as platforms for students to share their ideas for bills and resolutions, while also providing the senate with an opportunity to engage with students in a more relaxed and enjoyable setting outside of official matters. By doing so, we aim to cultivate a stronger sense of unity among senate members and foster a closer relationship between the senate and the student body.

