

Name: Carlee Yarbrough

Year: 04

Major: Health Services Administration

Slogan: “Connect with Carlee”

Qualifications:

Vice President of Alumni Relations for War Eagle Girls & Plainsmen

Chi Omega President

Hospital and Health Administration Organization Member

I am honored by the opportunity to share how my life experiences have led me to become passionate about advocating for more resources and rehabilitation to fight mental health struggles on Auburn’s campus.

My platform would be focused on mental health in college students. As I have grown older, I have had several eye-opening experiences related to mental health that have impacted me significantly. Several years ago, my friend attempted to take his own life shortly after his transition to Auburn University. Many close friends of mine, including myself, have experienced ongoing struggles with body dysmorphia. Each of these cases are unique and have demonstrated to me just how complex mental health treatment can be. Obviously, awareness of these issues is important, but even more so I want to encourage every member of the Auburn Family to pursue new and unique strategies towards managing the mental health pandemic.

My plan encourages students to focus on three resources to produce conversation that can continue on Auburn’s campus after Homecoming Week.

Genuine Self-Assessment

- o Students have begun putting mental health in its entirety under one blanket. Everyone’s problems are individual, but the sources overlap. It is important to realize that what you are going through is probably extremely different than what your friend is going through. It takes genuine self-assessment to look at yourself in the mirror and be confident enough to realize you are not okay.

Human Touch and Connection

- o The Auburn area has a rich culture and history, and students have access to a wealth of resources including around 600 organizations and arguably the most beautiful campus in the nation. Taking advantage of these resources builds relationships, leading to a community defined by a spirit that is not afraid.

Organization-Based Partnerships

o Complementing friendships, community is facilitated through institutional organizations that assemble students under a common theme or purpose. I am seeking to partner with organizations on campus such as the Veterans Resource Center, University Program Council, and the School of Nursing to actively bring people back to campus, intentionally promote awareness and well-being, and tangibly support the Auburn Family.

Surprisingly, in the past two years, there have been more collegiate deaths from suicide than COVID-19. Though this statistic highlights the amazing task force and medical staff empowering us to proactively fight the pandemic, it draws attention to the severe, prolific, and potentially destructive nature of mental illness.

This is pertinent to every Auburn student, and thus we all have the responsibility and opportunity to take ownership of ourselves, friends, and the broader community. My personal experiences have led me to become passionate about this platform and to share it with each of you. I am excited to meet you all and share more of my Auburn story!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carlee Yarbrough". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "Carlee" and "Yarbrough" being capitalized and prominent.

Carlee Yarbrough

