

Name: Maddie Wellbaum
Year: 04
Major: Hospitality Management

Qualifications:

President, Student Recruiters
SGA Cabinet
Auburn University Development Worker

Platform:

War Eagle!

My name is Maddie Wellbaum and I am honored to share my love for Auburn University as I run to be your next Miss Homecoming.

My Auburn experience is something that I will never take for granted. Auburn has provided me with welcoming surroundings and people to support me in all of my endeavors. Auburn greeted me with open arms, but not all students have the same experiences that I have. I recognize the privilege I have in never having questioned my belonging at Auburn, but I know that this is not the case for every student. As a candidate for Miss Homecoming I would like to focus on how we can make Auburn a home for every current and future tiger by making Auburn more accessible for a more diverse population of students, through highlighting Auburn's diversity and inclusion resources and advocating for a more equitable admissions process. My platform, We Belong with Wellbaum, serves as a space where all student's voices can be heard as we promote and advocate for more university diversity efforts.

Auburn is made up of 54% in-state students, yet there are still counties in Alabama that had no students attend Auburn this past year. Having a more diverse student body population stems from being proactive in recruiting and encouraging all types of students to look into Auburn. Auburn University's demographics do not accurately represent the state of Alabama. I believe that within the public state institution that educates the highest number of Alabamians, the student body should be reflective of the state, and that starts with the students we bring in. We can make Auburn a more inclusive and valuable place by shedding light on minority recruitment and retention through,

- Highlighting Auburn's resources and improving accessibility to them
- Advocating for a way to help alleviate admissions fees for minority students demonstrating significant financial need
- Initiating critical conversations, through student's testimonials of personal experiences, to help break down barriers to the success of every individual

There is no such thing as a universal Auburn experience, and Auburn should mold to its student population rather than the other way around. I recognize and value that I have a great deal to learn from the experiences of the students around me and I would love to collaborate and help share their stories. A dear friend and mentor of mine once told me "There is beauty in amplifying other voices", and that is something I hold dear. I do not intend to tell the stories of other members of the Auburn family who are different from me but I do intend to make sure they

themselves are heard in the spaces that I have been placed in, as we walk hand in hand working towards making Auburn more inclusive for current and future generations of Auburn students.

It is an honor to share my heart with Auburn University in this way, and I can't wait to work together to show all Auburn students that they Belong.