

SueEllen Broussard

The moment I stepped on Auburn's campus, I immediately felt like I was home. I had spent years in my small hometown, dreaming about the friends, experiences, and memories I would make here and luckily, I found all that and more. However, this isn't the case for every student on the Plains. Contrary to what I have always felt at Auburn, I have seen firsthand how difficult the Auburn experience can be for many students.

During my time as a Resident Assistant, I mentored students that became alienated when they were of very few racial minorities in an on-campus dormitory. In the involvement realm, I have watched students join organizations and partake in classroom settings where they take on an overwhelming amount of pressure when they are looked to as the sole voice of an underrepresented group. Lastly, I have shared in conversations with students that felt extremely intimidated coming to Auburn's campus because they saw so few that looked like them.

Step Up with Sue is centered around understanding the personal footprint that you are leaving on Auburn's campus climate. My goal is to use my platform to amplify underrepresented student groups' voices, while simultaneously creating an emphasis for all students to further their education and personal growth in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

I will take steps towards a more inclusive Auburn experience through,

- Advocating for all students to understand their implicit bias and backgrounds
- Engaging in open dialogue about the campus climate for underrepresented students
- Highlighting the pertinent resources that Auburn offers and advocating improved accessibility

I understand that I do not know what many students experience on campus. But I want to learn. I want to use this platform and my position to share stories, have tough conversations, and create an emphasis of your own personal footprint on campus climate. This campaign will not accomplish its goals overnight. However, it can be a small step towards a better future for Auburn University.

Ralph B. Draughon once said: "Owing much to the past, Auburn's greater debt is ever to the future." It is truly an honor to have this opportunity and to work towards the future of the

Auburn Family. I look forward to elaborating on my platform further, knowing your story, and emphasizing the Steps we leave on campus climate.