

Candidate: Natalie Ray

My name is Natalie Ray, and I am reaching out to you as a colleague, a friend, and an advocate for our work.

I am interested in serving as an Academic Senate Officer to contribute to our ongoing efforts to design, recommend, and implement student-centered policies and practices. I am eager to represent and elevate faculty voices as we seek to reduce barriers and address challenges.

In my 26 years at Grossmont, I have had the joy of working with wonderful people at both colleges and have had a variety of experiences including outreach, grant coordination, career pathway programming, counseling, curriculum and professional development, and program review.

I have served as a Senate Officer and have heard comments that reflect sadness and frustration, but also hope! We are in a challenging time and are still working to resolve long-standing barriers. When our students struggle, it can make us feel helpless. But we can overcome! We have tremendous expertise among us – a love for our subjects and for our students – let's work together to make positive progress.

I approach my work with three guiding principles: service, collaboration, and problem-solving.

I feel we all deserve a supportive environment that values our experiences and promotes our success. And by "we" I mean everyone: full-time, part-time, instructors, staff, students, counselors, and administrators.

Let's talk about solutions and reduce the stress on all of us – especially our students!

As a Senate Officer, I would support our current goals and plans, with a focus on these priorities:

- Strengthening our systems and operations
- Comprehensive professional development
- Streamlining paperwork, procedures, and processes
- Collaborative communication and relationship-building
- Student-centered policies and professional responsibilities

We each have talents to contribute – think of what we could achieve together!

I am one of those people who really believes that what we do can change the world. I hope to have the chance to work with you to build a better future for the people we serve.

I appreciate your consideration.