

ARAIYA JAIDE BERNARD

Hadih! Taanishi! My name is Araiya Bernard, and I am a third-year Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BScN) student at UNBC. I am dedicated to student advocacy, academic excellence, and ensuring that student voices are meaningfully represented in university decision-making.

I have extensive experience in student leadership and advocacy, serving as the Third-Year Representative for the UNBC Nursing Club, a student representative on the Allies and Allyship Committee, and the Executive Treasurer of the Indigenous Collective Club at CNC. I have collaborated with Dr. Catherine Schiller on initiatives addressing structural challenges in nursing education and healthcare and contributed research to Indigenous Watchdog, analyzing policies and systemic barriers. Additionally, I have engaged with the First Nations Justice System to better understand and advocate for culturally appropriate approaches to health and well-being within Indigenous governance structures. Through my experience as an employed student nurse in Haida Gwaii, I gained firsthand insight into the realities of healthcare in remote communities. I am committed to rural and remote nursing, ensuring underserved communities receive holistic care that honours physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual well-being.

If elected to the UNBC Senate, I will be a strong advocate for students in the Faculty of Human and Health Sciences, ensuring their voices are heard in key academic discussions and decisions. I am committed to fostering a university environment that prioritizes student success, transparent communication, and policies that support equitable, high-quality education. Through collaboration and advocacy, I will work to strengthen the academic experience for all students in our faculty.

All My Relations—may we walk together in respect, advocacy, and the pursuit of meaningful change. Thank you for your time and consideration.

With respect and humility, I acknowledge that I reside on the traditional territory of the Lheidli T'enneh, part of the Dakelh (Carrier) First Nations. I am deeply grateful to live and learn on these lands. I approach my work with a commitment to respect, understanding, and advocacy for reconciliation—all my relations—*mussi cho* to the ancestral keepers of this land, past and present.



FACULTY OF HUMAN AND HEALTH SCIENCES

MEHERLLEEN KAUR
CHARANJIT SINGH

NITIKA

Hi team

I am Nitika and I am currently doing my undergraduate studies in health sciences. I am looking forward to the position as I have experience in handling database and I have developed communication skills from my past jobs as I worked as a teacher and digital marketing designer. I have held several positions in my high school in the student government including freshman class, as well as junior representative. In addition to that I have also handled the position of a teaching assistant for my high school. I look forward for your support and I promise I shall do my best .

Thank-you

Nitika



FRANCISCO GASPAR

My name is Francisco Gaspar, and I am grateful for the opportunity to be a nominee for the UNBC Senate to represent the Faculty of Human and Health Sciences. As a third-year nursing student, I have dedicated my academic journey to learning, growing, working with, and advocating for others. I am one of ten children, raised by two loving and hardworking immigrant parents. I am of Mexican and Indigenous Guatemalan descent and am honored to use my platform to represent my community and those who value equity in academic and professional spaces. Growing up, I faced many challenges, as poverty and addiction were rampant in my community. It was later in life that I would fully understand how deeply the social determinants of health had influenced my early development. Despite these obstacles, and with the help of my loved ones, I persevered and motivated myself to be driven by resilience, determination, and profound unity.

Before entering nursing school, I worked for 7 years in Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder facilities, including Psych ER and Withdrawal Management Centres in the Greater Vancouver area. These experiences taught me the importance of compassion, advocacy, and a desire for systemic and equitable change. Additionally, I have volunteered with the Vancouver Second Mile Society, supporting low-income seniors, and at BC Children's Hospital, assisting families in triage during difficult moments. As a student representative, I am committed to advocating for my peers, organizing events, raising awareness for important causes, and fundraising for our program. Serving on the Senate would allow me to continue amplifying student voices, addressing concerns, and ensuring our academic community thrives on the foundation of partnership and equality.

I believe in fostering inclusivity, support, and meaningful change within UNBC, and I would be honored to represent you. Through my personal and academic experiences, I have come to recognize that true leadership is supported by collaboration and that education is a wonderful tool that provides us opportunities to serve and learn from each other. With your support and your vote, we can drive meaningful change and create a strong foundation for our program and for future students to achieve academic success.

