

**2025 STAFF SENATE GENERAL ELECTION
UNCLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE
CANDIDATE STATEMENTS
3 YEAR TERM**

Kevin Breaux

I would like to continue serving as Staff Senator here at Louisiana State University to advocate for my colleagues, contribute to better improvements across campus, and improve the work environment. I will remain committed to making sure staff voices are heard, promoting professional development, and creating better communication between administration and employees. I will continue to support the strengthening of staff wellbeing, engagement and collaboration to create an atmosphere of growth for the university. I feel my dedication, leadership and passion for helping others will make a positive impact on the LSU community.

Roberto Champney

Let's be honest, staff are the glue (or duct tape) that keeps the university running; indispensable yet definitely underappreciated. I would like to help change that. Having been on both sides as faculty and now staff, I know it can be better. I want to help break down the silos (gently, no hard hats needed) and help build a culture where collaboration isn't a miracle, but the norm. We all want the same thing: to make this place work better. I believe we can create real, lasting change and a shared sense of purpose.

Carolyn Dragseth

Carolyn Dragseth is the Contracts Manager for the LSU Office of Innovation and Technology Commercialization (LSU Tech Transfer Office). She is an attorney and business owner with experience spearheading transformative initiatives that result in increased revenue and productivity. She has expertise in Government Contracting, Federal/State Regulations, Intellectual Property, Contract Negotiation & Drafting, Regulatory Compliance, Cyber and Business Law. Throughout her career, she has demonstrated Technical Proficiency in directing and managing teams of Project Analysts, Business Analysts, and

Developers in support of IT projects statewide for an estimated 70-million-dollar budget. She would like to proactively contribute to the LSU Staff Senate.

Daniela Escobedo

"My decision to run for Staff Senator is driven by a passion for making a meaningful impact and a commitment to being an active part of the solutions that strengthen our institution. The core of what I hope to bring is empathy, a quality I consider essential in truly understanding the diverse experiences, needs, and concerns of our staff.

As a Staff Senator, I would be committed to fostering an inclusive and supportive environment—one where concerns are met with action, where initiatives are taken to address challenges, events are thoughtfully planned, and individuals feel supported. Let's make progress together."

Stephenie Franks

As a two-time LSU alumna, current doctoral student, and devoted staff member with nearly 18 years of university service, I am committed to leveraging my experience and dedication to enact positive change and enhance the university experience for staff and students. Having served in various offices across campus—including Academic Affairs, Institutional Effectiveness, and presently, the E. J. Ourso College of Business—I am seeking reelection for a second term to continue representing my colleagues' voices and concerns and to remain actively engaged in campus initiatives that foster collaboration, transparency, and meaningful improvements across the university.

Alexandra Garcia

My name is Alexandra Garcia, Interim Director for the Center for Academic Success (CAS). With over seven years at LSU in various departments, I bring a broad perspective on university operations and collaboration. I'm passionate about bridging the gap between staff, faculty, and administration by improving communication and policies that impact our work. If elected to Staff Senate, I will advocate for staff needs, ensuring our voices shape university decisions. I am committed to making LSU a more supportive, welcoming, and outstanding workplace for all. I would be honored to serve and represent you.

Ginger Guttner

I am passionate about fostering collaboration and enhancing communication across campus. As communications manager at LSU Vet Med, I have extensive experience in public relations and higher education. I understand the importance of advocacy, transparency, and engagement in supporting LSU staff. As a Staff Senator, I will work to ensure staff voices are heard, promote professional growth opportunities, and contribute to a positive work environment. I am dedicated to LSU's mission and seek to strengthen our university community by building connections, addressing concerns, and championing initiatives that benefit staff members across all departments.

Nicholas Kelly

"I have been with LSU since 2014 starting as a student and student employee and transitioned full time in May of 2019 after receiving my undergraduate degree from the LSU College of Business. I am looking to work with other staff members across the campus to further broadcast the voices of LSU Staff on important subjects. I look forward to keeping our voices heard on campus."

Jennifer Kennison

I would like to continue my service to the campus community as an unclassified Staff Senator. Staff Senate is on the front lines of employee advocacy and engagement. Serving on Staff Senate has been a meaningful way to support employee development and opportunities, keep my department and colleagues connected to mission-critical information, and contribute to the LSU experience for us all. I would appreciate your vote!

Robbie Leumas

I am running for staff senate in order to advocate for other staff members across campus. As with all LSU alumni, I am very passionate about doing what is best for this campus and its people. I am excited to have the chance to join the senate and help facilitate the necessary changes voiced by our community.

Sarah Manguno

I would like to serve as a Staff Senator to advocate for the needs and interests of LSU staff members. By serving on the LSU Staff Senate, I aim to enhance communication across departments and ensure staff members have the support needed to be successful in their roles.

Brooke Rust

My name is Brooke Rust, Executive Assistant of the Senior Associate Dean for Student Success at the Vet School. With more than five years' experience across campus as an LSU employee, I would be honored to serve as Staff Senator to provide a voice of the staff to policymakers. A few other items that sparked my passion to join Staff Senate are continuing the work toward removal of fees for dependents of LSU employees and decreasing employee turnover rates at LSU. I'm excited to celebrate and support the wonderful staff at LSU through special events, recognitions, trainings and wellbeing events.

Katilyn Simpson

One of the main reasons that I would like to serve as a Staff Senator is to contribute to the continuous evolution of our amazing university and advocate for all the employees on campus. After being given the opportunity to earn my master's degree in HR while being a staff member, I think the knowledge I have gained would apply directly to being a member of Staff Senate. My passion for LSU started as a young child and being a part of the university in different capacities has opened my eyes to all the great aspects of this university.

Keith Thompson

I have worked at LSU for over 12 years, 11 with athletics and one in my current position with the School of Kinesiology. During my tenure as a staff member, I have always appreciated the passion and dedication of my fellow co-workers which defines the culture of our University. I hope to help staff members address issues that they consider important, improve morale, and enrich their professional development. I look forward to representing our staff and making our workplace even better. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Laquita White

I am excited to serve as a Staff Senator because I am interested in serving as someone who advocates and promotes the needs of staff members here at LSU. As a staff member, I have always been passionate about creating a workplace that is like a home away from home within the workplace. This means ensuring staff members feel heard, appreciated, and valued. Since packing up and moving out of state, LSU has been serving as my safe space and a home away from home, and I would love to see every staff member experience this type of positive environment.