

If I am elected as Vice President of Programming and Outreach for the Graduate Student Council at the University of North Texas, my goal is to make the graduate community more stimulating and supportive for all graduate students. I want to organise events that can help students in their professional and personal aspects. I will arrange networking sessions in which students have a chance to meet alumni and professionals from the respective industries, speaker presentations, and career workshops to equip them for their future. I will also arrange cultural and social events to celebrate diversity and bring students together in a meaningful and enjoyable way.

I also plan to strengthen UNT's partnerships with local organisations, businesses, and alumni groups so we can create more internship and career opportunities for graduate students. With some of our student organisations, we can co-sponsor joint events that facilitate interaction and learning among students from different disciplines. I also plan to increase student engagement in community services so that we can serve positively beyond the campus.

Communication is key to making sure that student voices get heard. I will establish an open method of bringing student ideas, issues, and event ideas into the spotlight so our council can hear them and do something about them. I will also establish a newsletter or weekly social media alerts to let students in on what's upcoming and what's on offer. My intention is to ensure that everyone has access and can attend events, regardless of being an international student, working student, or having other areas of academic interests.

To assist graduate students in their professional growth, I will create mentorship programs whereby students are matched with faculty, industry professionals, and successful alumni. I also plan to initiate skill-building workshops in leadership, resume writing, public speaking, and entrepreneurship. In addition, I will strive to secure more internship and research grant opportunities by making connections with local organisations and research institutions.

Finally, I would also like to create a caring and welcoming community in which students feel free to relax and identify with each other. I will organise social mixers, game nights, and cultural festivals so that students are able to network while having fun. I will, in the meantime, promote awareness of mental health by facilitating stress-reduction measures as well as peer-support groups. I will also champion policy for improving overall graduate student life at UNT.

With my background of organising successful student events and passion for bringing people together, I am confident that I can offer a positive input. If I am voted, I will try to implement these plans and ensure that all the graduate students utilise a vibrant and supportive campus society. Let us come together and make UNT a place where all the graduate students become a part of a connected, supported, and empowered community.

Kumar Danam