

Karina Torres

Position: Student Government Senator/Resident Assistant

Members of the Appropriations Committee, My name is Karina Torres and I am a Health and Physical Education Major here at Eastern Connecticut State University. For as long as I remember, I have always wanted to be a Resident Assistant and make campus life as exciting and engaging as my previous RAs have done for me. When I was granted the opportunity to become an RA, I have never thought that I would have to do so during a pandemic.

COVID has certainly presented a wide variety of challenges that I felt were almost nearly impossible to overcome. I was faced with several challenges both academically and in my leadership positions. However, with continuing support from the University, I have never felt more sure of my ability to succeed and create a valuable campus experience and community within my Residence Hall.

I will make note that this isn't something that I could do alone, Eastern continues to play an active role in campus life and continuously communicates information about events, important notices, re-openings, and more. Additionally, they listened to student concerns presented to them through Student Government and provided resolutions. Something that I am proud to say I have been a part of.

All of these efforts are possible because of continued financial support from the legislature. Without this, I would not be able to host COVID-friendly programs that get students excited about the potential for future in-person events. I would not be able to get a quality, in-person, educational experience that I came here for. I would not be able to say that Eastern continues to support us through these dark times if it were not for the support in Public Higher Education.

If we are to ever think about returning to some sort of normal, it is important to note that it is not possible without the financial support from you all. I want to continue making these differences on campus, I want to see the community thriving once again. I want to be able to graduate alongside my friends and say we got through all of this together. Please continue to support us so that I can continue to do my part in strengthening the campus community.