

EPISODE 4: WE'RE HERE. WE'RE TALKING. | A Short Conversation About Elections & Voting

[Music]

Michael Garrett: Hey, everyone, welcome to Amplify. We're here, we're talking. I'm your host, Michael Garrett, aka Mikey. And I serve as the CEO and president for ASI. And I'm your host today, alongside my co-host, Jackie.

Jacqueline Montano: Hi, everyone, I'm Jackie Montano. I am one of the CoBA reps for CSUSM. And I am the Chair for the Elections Committee.

Michael Garrett: So as president of ASI, some of the things I do is I am the voice of the student body. I serve on many different committees, such as the Police Department Committee, and the COVID Test Group, as well as I work within the Board of Directors, specifically, the executive team.

Jacqueline Montano: And I, as one of the representatives for the College of Business Administration, represent the students within that college. And I also sit, as mentioned, or am the Chair, as mentioned on the Elections Committee, so I oversee the planning and the fulfillment of elections for this year. I'm also on a few different committees throughout CSUSM.

Michael Garrett: Speaking of elections, if you have any comments or concerns that you had about elections, you're in the right place because today, we will be talking about the ASI elections and voting. Voting is coming up very shortly, and this is our two-part episode about the ASI elections. Some impacts about the ASI elections that you may be interested in is what it does. By voting, you vote in new Board of Director members who can make more decisions in the coming years for CSUSM. And they will represent the student needs and sit on some committees and advocate for students.

Jacqueline Montano: Yeah. And the Board of Directors is made up of 16 different members, so there's two for each college. There's the four executive members, two members that are representing the diversity and inclusion within CSUSM, and then one for sustainability. So really, these members make up CSUSM as a whole and really give us a good gauge on what students want and need. They represent the students' various different wants and just what they're looking forward to in school.

Michael Garrett: And it's important for you to know where you went for ASI president or CoBA rep or any of the other 16 board members. So when you look at all of the candidates, read the information that they put about themselves, and see the work that they want to do in the future so that they can better represent you.

As the election chair, what is a big concern that you see for elections as a whole?

Jacqueline Montano: Yeah. So the biggest concern that we face within the Elections Committee is more about voter turnout. Traditionally, ASI elections at CSUSM have had very low voter turnout. Elections are typically decided within a few votes and the margin within candidates is very slim as well. So every vote does matter. Make sure that when you get that email, that you are well informed, that you have read up on the candidates and what, any propositions are going through, we do not have any propositions this year, we did last year, actually. And that you understand what you're voting for, and if you don't, you can always reach out to Elections Committee, and we can give you a non-biased rundown of what each side is representing, that way, you have the clear facts there.

Michael Garrett: Is it important for students to also market for the candidates that they like?

Jacqueline Montano: Yeah. It's very important that if you know a candidate or a slate, and you agree with what they are proposing for next year when we're most likely going to be back on campus, or even what they've seen this year, and what they like or what they would like to change in the future, then that you promote that yourself. You know, the best recommendation is from a student. Same thing as in real life, the best recommendation for a candidate is from a constituent.

Michael Garrett: Future candidates out there, what piece of advice do you have for them?

Jacqueline Montano: I would say just go ahead and apply. You know, like, you never know who's going to run. And there have been so many people that have told me, later on, like, "Oh, I wish I had just gone ahead and filled

out that form," it's, just go for it. You don't want to live with that regret of not taking that chance of representing people and making that positive change that you would like to see on campus.

Michael Garrett: And that's a good piece of advice for just life, just go for it. Speaking of staying engaged, follow us on Instagram at asi.csusm and on our Twitter @asi_csusm, and that's where we will update everything.

Jacqueline Montano: Yeah. And just to bring it back, voting happens March 15th, polls open at 7 AM, and they close on March 17th at 5 PM. You will be getting your ballot to your student email, so that's your @cougars.csusm.edu email. And the election results will be announced on March 18th if all goes according to plan. And just remember that these candidates have a good chance of representing you both online and in-person if same thing all goes according to plan and we are back on campus next year.

Michael Garrett: Thank you for listening to us in our podcasts today.

Amplify, Ampli-bye'.

Jacqueline Montano: Nice.

Julianna Castro (Student Producer): Good. Good job, everyone. I will stop recording