

**THE SENATE OF THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH**

Bill Number: Senate Resolution #2020-36
Title: Commemorate 2019-20 ASI Vice President Leen Almahdi
Sponsored by: Senator for the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics Michael Lam
Date Submitted: May 1, 2020
Date Approved: May 6, 2020

WHEREAS the Board of Directors of Associated Students, Inc. (ASI) at California State University, Long Beach (CSULB) has a duty to highlight the contributions of those who have demonstrated a commitment to the enhancement of the educational and social experience of the campus community at CSULB; and

WHEREAS the Board of Directors wishes to recognize those who have advocated for issues affecting our campus and community; and

WHEREAS the Board of Directors recognizes and honors, Leen Almahdi for her countless contributions, dedication, commitment, and leadership to the holistic betterment of CSULB, the CSU system, and the world during her years of service as a former Senator for the College of Health and Human Services and as the ASI Vice President for two consecutive terms; and

WHEREAS Vice President Almahdi became involved with ASI the second semester of her freshman year by being elected as the Senator for the College of Health and Human Services, which is where her passion for student advocacy and serving those of historically marginalized communities began within student government; and

WHEREAS Vice President Almahdi was re-elected the following year to serve as Senator for the College of Health and Human Services where she continued to serve students and make long lasting impacts that would improve the lives of students for many years to come; and

WHEREAS Vice President Almahdi's commitment and advocacy led her to be elected as the ASI Vice President for the 2018-19 academic year and was re-elected for the 2019-20 academic year; and

WHEREAS as Senator for the College of Health and Human Services, Vice President Almahdi was able to accomplish the following for students:

- Supported and sponsored a resolution for "Books not Bombs," an organization that provides scholarships to Syrian students to have access to a safe and quality education
- Advocated for and sponsored a resolution for Title IX and encouraged the university to maintain a preponderance of the evidence, ensure protection for survivors and also encouraged staff to stand in solidarity with survivors, advocate for them, and overall promote a safe campus community
- Advocated for students of historically marginalized communities and promoted ally trainings in support of these communities
- Assisted in the creation and implementation of the Muslim Student Ally Training
- Sponsored a resolution against white supremacy where she denounced any form of white supremacy on campus and encouraged increased programming and resources for historically marginalized and targeted communities on campus
- Addressed the needs of students within her college by discussing nutrition class sequencing, resolving health concerns in nutrition labs/kitchens, and promoting events and programming

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- Helped develop the Social Justice and Equity Committee to amplify student voices and address their concerns and also served on the committee
- Sponsored a resolution to call for the retirement of Prospector Pete as the mascot and the disassociation from the Gold Rush Era as neither were inclusive of students of color and especially Indigenous American students
- Advocated and sponsored a resolution for students experiencing homelessness and cemented that ASI should continue to work with stakeholders to address this issue and serve these students for years to come; and

WHEREAS

Vice President Almahdi continued her service and work for students as Vice President in the 2018-19 and the 2019-20 academic school years, she accomplished the following for students:

- Sponsored a resolution in support of greater training and inclusion for the LGBTQIA+ community, specifically trans students, within university and ASI events as well as increased programming and resources for trans students
- Wrote a resolution to encourage the university to move to digital course evaluations
- Authored legislation to increase support and access for students with disabilities
- Led a lobby group and advocated for financial aid reform to state legislators as part of the CSULB delegation for the California Higher Education Student Summit (CHESS) at the State Capitol
- Advocated for increased visibility of resources for students experiencing food and/or housing insecurity
- Established a Pay It Forward Meal option for students experiencing food insecurity
- Created, planned, and hosted the first-ever Students of Color Conference at CSULB in the fall 2019
- Advocated for increased sustainable practices within ASI vendors by reducing the use of plastic straws
- Increased recycling and composting efforts by creating a sustainability training for student organizations
- Implemented live streaming of the Senate meetings to increase student engagement and transparency
- Ensured the inclusion of a new resource centers space in the University Physical Master Plan
- Increased the Beach Pantry usage by 300% in the year 2018-19
- Worked with campus partners to ensure that students experiencing housing insecurity and living in their cars will no longer be ticketed on campus
- Laid the foundation for the implementation of a transportation service for students with different abilities and different mobility needs
- Increased scholarship visibility and promotion to students
- Constantly engaged with the student body through the implementation of the “Takis Walk” and “Take a Sec with the Execs”
- Served as the moderator for the ASI event, “Race and Muslims in America” where she led a discussion on how Muslim students and students of other historically marginalized communities can be supported
- Led the movement to change the university mascot and led the entire mascot search process in collaboration with the university
- Revised several boards and committees to be more efficient in order to better meet and address the needs, concerns, and issues of students

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- Wrote legislation mandating the recognition of land acknowledgment ceremonies/statements to be made at ASI events and encouraging the university to honor this at their meetings and major events as well
- Led ASI in opening the first multi-stall gender-neutral restroom at CSULB
- Led ASI in opening the first foot washing station at CSULB
- Served as a panelist at Congressman Alan Lowenthal’s Young Women Empowerment Conference
- Served as a panelist at a League of Women Voters event to speak about voter turnout and civic engagement
- Served as a panelist at the "Together We Rise" event for HSBA where she empowered young women of color to pursue higher education
- Advised 20 Board of Directors in policymaking and addressing concerns specific to their constituency for two years in a row; and

WHEREAS Vice President Almahdi throughout her extensive and exemplary career as a leader for ASI at CSULB has:

- Wrote over 30 Senate resolutions as both a senator and vice president, comprised of over seventy pages
- Attended and served on countless university and ASI boards
- Represented herself as a model leader and advocate for the CSULB community
- Served as a mentor and support to ASI student leaders
- Made inclusive institutional changes that will be remembered for years to come; and

WHEREAS Vice President Almahdi in all her time with ASI has led our organization with integrity, humility, and purpose, by being a fierce advocate for students and using her platform and voice to create positive change for all students, especially those of historically marginalized communities; and


WHEREAS Vice President Almahdi’ spent countless hours attending meetings, events, working with student leaders, working with campus stakeholders, and mentoring all senators she led to ensure the overall success of the organization as a whole; and

WHEREAS Vice President Almahdi was a prime example of a selfless leader who always put the needs and concerns of the students before her own; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the California State University, Long Beach Associated Students, Inc. congratulates and honors Vice President Almahdi for her service and dedication to ASI and the CSULB community; and be it finally

RESOLVED that an electronic copy of this resolution, upon its approval by the ASI President be distributed to CSULB President Jane Conoley, Provost Brian Jersky, Interim Vice President for Student Affairs Mary Ann Takemoto, Dean of Students Piya Bose, all current ASI Officers, the Daily 49er, and 22 West Media.

Delivered to the President of the Associated Students on:

DocuSigned by:

 Lizbeth Velasquez, Associated Students President

5/20/2020

Date
5/20/2020

Date