

When I first walked on the of Sam Houston State University, I knew I wanted to impact my campus. However, I did not know what form that would take. With this ambition, I decided to join the Student Government Association. Thought out my time serving in this organization, I have registered voters, served on a sexual assault awareness committee, and authored diverse legislation. My greatest accomplishment is improving menstrual hygiene equity on my campus.

According to Women's Voice for America, the definition of menstrual hygiene equity is the affordability, accessibility, and safety of menstrual products. A survey that a graduate student and I created to highlight a need for coin-free dispensers shared that 48% of the respondents in the past year had to choose between purchasing pads/tampons or food. I identify as a cis male, so I have never had to buy these products, which are taxed as a luxury in Texas. After researching, I developed the simple belief that these products should be accessible to the public, especially on college campuses.

Last February, I created a bill that allocated money to build a pilot program that provided free feminine hygiene products in restrooms in our student center. Shortly after this bill passed, I launched my candidacy for Student Body Chief of Staff. Throughout my campaign, I was able to speak to diverse students about my ambition to improve our campus, such as expanding free menstrual hygiene products. Since the pilot program was student-run, it posed a struggle to expand with university support. After I was elected, I decided to search for funding for coin-free dispensers installed in female and gender-neutral restrooms. After presenting survey data, student testimonials, and relevant statistics, the Student Health Center agreed to fund dispensers for the student fully. This has led to 21 restrooms now housing dispensers that offer free menstrual supplies for students across campus.

I believe that embodied the university's motto, "A measure of Life is it Service," because I chose to live my life through purpose and services and not accolades. My goal in life is advocating, educating, and assisting the disfranchised, and I plan not to measure my life through heartbeat but by my contributions to this world.