

**Lauren Servais, statement, candidate for Officer of Equity**

With humility and joy, I am submitting my statement of interest for the Academic Senate Executive Committee's new Equity Position.

I am a first-generation college student. I grew up speaking Hawaiian Creole, and my ethnicity is a mix of local Hawaiian culture with Chinese, Filipino, and Samoan cultural practices. My ancestors found their ways to Hawai'i through imperialism, colonization, and immigration.

My experiences are central to my work as an educator, where I work to hold a space for students to find agency through the weaving of their cultural knowledge with academic knowledge. Like my teachers did for me, I seek to bridge and weave. My task as an educator is to weave knowledge and critical reflection into critical action, as I design learning environments for students that are culturally affirming and validating and that invite them into transformative academic knowledge.

Before making the decision to move to California, I studied in UW Seattle's PhD in Multicultural Education Program. Building upon these studies, I facilitate two online professional learning courses, which are opportunities to build knowledge of equity theories and practices, engage in critical reflection, and take action.

In my time at SRJC, I've had the honor of serving in multiple capacities. It is rare, and would be an honor, to have this opportunity to work directly with faculty and Senate on Equity matters. Thanks for taking this step to forward equity and weave faculty directly into the work of building equitable learning environments for our students.