

SOCC Endorsement Application, Molly Horwitz:

**Why are you running for Senate? \***

I want to improve the way Stanford handles the treatment of mental health issues on campus.

With concerted effort by senators and students we can eliminate the stigma surrounding mental health at Stanford.

CAPS does not receive sufficient funding to serve the growing undergraduate population and is inaccessible for students not covered under Cardinal Care. I would like to allocate more funds towards CAPS and work to give students covered by different insurance carriers access to mental healthcare on campus. We need to have a sustained, productive conversation on mental health.

**What are campaigns and ideas you hope to accomplish through the ASSU that address issues important to communities of color? \***

I want to support initiatives that would link mental healthcare and the communities of color at Stanford. During my high school years, I realized that there was a large stigma surrounding mental illness within the surrounding community that was a majority African-American. I want to work on diminishing that stigma, which is a large task, but is critically important. The past year has been extremely difficult for communities of color across the United States and in the Stanford community. Given this, I want to make sure that the communities of color have ample opportunities to explore the mental health resources at Stanford. I've already put forward a petition to request more funding for CAPS.

**Please provide an example of a situation when you had to exercise your leadership skills to help resolve a conflict involving your identity. \***

I identify as a proud South American and as a Jew. I have not always embraced both identities until recently. I was often called "white-washed" or "not a real Latina" during high school. I felt like I was not enough for the Latino community and further embraced my Jewish identity. It was only until my acceptance to Stanford that my ethnicity came into question when other students said that I was just an "affirmative action kid." I was the National Honor Society president and I used this role to have an event about affirmative action that also highlighted the merits of other students who were accepted to high caliber schools as well. I illustrated that I, and other classmates, did not get accepted because of our ethnicities, but because of our achievements. Two times a year I return to my high school to speak about applying to high caliber schools and offering resources for financial support. I turned a very painful experience for myself into one where I could grow and allow others to grow with me.

**Describe a program you attended that was hosted by an ethnic or cultural organization. How did it shape your understanding of our communities?**

Last year I attended the BSU-JSA freedom seder. I enjoyed the connection between the Jewish community and communities of color and hope that there will be more of these

events in the upcoming year. I found many parallels between the oppression of the Jews in Egypt and oppression of communities of color in the United States. The extent of the oppression and inequality that still exists in the US disturbs me, and I'm learning different non-violent strategies that exist in order to bring about change. I am in a class on non-violence, and plan to bring in a speaker about Kingian nonviolence to my dorm.

**What are your current campus involvements? If you are elected as a Senator how will you adjust these involvements? \***

I am currently an RA in Mirrielees, and hope to continue my role as an RA next year. I am involved in the Jewish community, but realize that I will have to devote myself to my job as a senator and explore other communities. I am very interested in learning more about what problems you identify in the communities of color at Stanford.