

Adam MacKenzie, 2014-2015 Vice President

Good afternoon,

Throughout my past three years at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, there have been countless experiences, encounters, and events that have led to me standing where I am today. So many individuals from this University have impacted me in ways that - before becoming a student here - I had never dreamed possible. I firmly believe that UNO offers classes, faculty, and experiences on par with the best that the United States has to offer. This, in part, along with opportunities that I have been lucky to receive, have made me strive towards getting involved, and doing what I can to better UNO and the surrounding community.

Nearly two years ago I was approached by someone who - at the time - was an acquaintance of mine, about getting involved in Student Government, and possibly even running along side her as Student Government's Vice President. This acquaintance was Jordan Koch. At the time, I didn't necessarily know what I wanted to do here at UNO, but over the coming months Jordan and I got to know each other better and better, and I ended up becoming one of two Senators for the Junior class of Students this past year. As we grew as individuals, so too did the tie that Jordan and I shared through Student Government, and I am now happy to call her a great friend.

One major part of my duties as the Vice President of our Student Government is to manage a group of about 12-15 of UNO's brightest, and most outgoing freshman who are elected into the Freshman Leadership Council. My time served as a 2013-2014 Student Senator exposed me to new skills and connections that will serve me for the rest of my life. These are the types of things that I want to pass on to a group who in many ways are a part of the future of UNO. Beyond the time that these students spend with me as members of this council, I want them to build their skills as leaders. I want them to get involved in some of the many incredible organizations that we are so grateful to have here on campus. And I want them to form the beginning of long lasting, impactful connections with members of not only our University, but with members of this amazing community that we can call home.

I would like to extend a special thanks to the outgoing Student Body Vice President

Ben Kaipust. I first met Ben my freshman year in the Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity, and over the years have come to trust his judgment, and consider him a great friend of mine. I have learned more than I ever imagined through the time that I have spent with him, both from his vision for the Freshman Leadership Council and Student Government; as well as from his experiences as an aspiring engineer like myself. As a whole he has taught me a great deal about how I want to approach the coming term, and I will be forever grateful for his guidance.

But, above all else is my family. My mom Kim, and my dad John have supported me throughout my entire life, and I certainly wouldn't be anywhere close to where I am today without their love and backing through my many endeavors. My twin brother Ben MacKenzie has played a role in my life greater than he will ever understand. Whether we were celebrating a great soccer game, or complaining to one another about a hard Thermodynamics test that we just took, he has always been with me side by side nearly every place in my life.

I look forward to serving as the Student Government Vice President in the coming year and continuing the massive success that has recently been experienced by Student Government and the University alike.

Thank you!