

Hello,

My name is Edward C. Bennett, Jr. and I am a Bachelor of Science in Nursing student at the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing at Case Western Reserve University. I am running for the position of Student Representative for the National Black Nurses Association.

I am from Buffalo, N.Y. and have always been a public servant. I have grown up in the community, servicing people. My senior year of high school I was elected by all 16 high schools in the city of Buffalo to represent the over 36,000 students on the Board of Education. Along with working under a \$1 billion budget, I started the "March to Voter Registration Month Initiative" which helped eligible students register to vote. This event registered upwards of 3,000 students.

Throughout my college career I have taken on leadership roles as well. I was elected to the Undergraduate Student Government as the Nursing Representative. I also became a board member for the Cleveland Council of Black Nurses, becoming the youngest member to hold this position at 22 years old.

My goal is to increase access to the NBNA for nursing students. I want NBNA's presence to be felt in all 50 states by any minority student who needs our support. NBNA has the resources and man power to close the generational gap in the nursing workforce and to mentor and support the next generation of nurses.

I will leave you with the five C's that I characterize as my guiding principles:

**Confidence...** Through time, trial and error, I have developed the intestinal fortitude to take on speaking engagements, represent myself in places of power and influence while retaining a humble attitude and presence that I can relate well with my peers and those with whom I must take direction and guidance.

**Creditability...** I have worked hard and long to develop a sense of my character, being trustworthy, responsible in my undertakings. Hard work and long days have gone into building and more so maintaining a name that is respected and highly recognized in many circles as an individual who makes good on what they set-out to accomplish.

**Creativity...** I have consistently demonstrated my creative talents either in writing (contributor to The Observer) leadership (Cleveland Council of Black Nurses, Buffalo Board of Education Student Representative) and community involvement.

**Capacity** ...All throughout my life I have successfully demonstrated the capacity to take on huge tasks and assignments and complete them with distinction and high acclaim.

**Compassionate...** Caring and citizenship have been my mantra. Though my family's upbringing and teachings, I have learned and readily practiced the art of giving back to my community and those in need.