

Blessing Norvell

FOR INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

Hi, my name is Terriona Norvell, but I go by Blessing. I am currently pursuing my passion for American Sign Language with the goal of becoming an ASL interpreter and translator. I knew I wanted to be an interpreter at the age of 12 when I fell in love with the TV show *Switched at Birth*. From that moment, I begged my mom to let me attend Humboldt High School, where they had a Deaf and Hard of Hearing program. There, I saw interpreters in real life, not just on television, and I knew that was exactly where I wanted to be.

Saint Paul College has given me the opportunity to pursue this dream through its outstanding ASL program. My time at Saint Paul has been full of amazing experiences, showing me leadership roles I never imagined I could hold, giving me opportunities to travel, and challenging me academically. I maintained a 4.0 GPA my first year—the first time I had ever achieved that—and I have been on the Dean's List five times since starting in 2024.

Being part of Phi Theta Kappa has helped me overcome financial barriers that initially prevented me from attending college. Through PTK, I received the Golden Opportunity Scholarship and now serve as president of my student organization. I am also proud to be the first Miss SPC at my college and "We Thrive" member, a group that supports women of color while promoting mental health resources and strategies.

I am truly honored to have this opportunity to be seen as an international leader, and my experiences in a diverse community college environment have given me insight and determination to contribute meaningfully. I can't wait to show the PTK community more of what Blessing can bring.



Leadership



I have demonstrated leadership through my roles at Saint Paul College in several meaningful ways. As the first Miss SPC, I serve as a college ambassador, touring high schools, answering questions, and helping prospective students learn about our programs and community. I am also a proud member of Phi Theta Kappa, which has provided opportunities for academic and professional growth, and I am involved in We Thrive, a group that supports women of color and promotes mental health strategies.

Additionally, I serve on the President's Committee, helping to establish a bridge between administration and students to ensure both voices are heard.



Scholarship

The Northstar Promise inspired me to go back to school, and once I arrived at Saint Paul College, I did better than I ever thought possible—earning a spot on the Dean's List immediately. I was invited to join Phi Theta Kappa, but initially couldn't cover the cost. Receiving the Golden Opportunity Scholarship changed that and completely transformed my view on post-secondary learning.

I also earned a scholarship to attend the LEAD IN program in Washington, D.C., where I spoke to the Board of Education about federal funding that makes the Northstar Promise possible and learned from the perspectives of students from diverse backgrounds. That experience inspired me to run for student body president and strengthened my passion for advocacy and helping others succeed.



Fellowship



I assist with orientation and We Thrive events, helping students get started on the right path and succeed throughout a wonderful semester. I also serve as a Fellow, supporting initiatives that connect students with resources and opportunities. Currently, I serve as Student Senate President, and working closely with my Senate team has strengthened my leadership skills and taught me the value of collaboration and teamwork. These experiences have allowed me to mentor others, advocate for my community, and grow as a leader.



Terriona.Norvell@my.saintpaul.edu

Saint Paul College

Linkedin: Terriona (Blessing) Norvell