LIFE IS 10% WHAT YOU EXPERIENCE AND 90% HOW YOU RESPOND TO IT.
Charles R. Swindoll

PAIN IS THE GREAT EQUALIZER; WE CAN ALL BE EMPATHETIC TOWARDS ONE ANOTHER
Brandon Martinez

Candidate for International Office
MY MISSION
-To propel others to see their potential
-Inspire others to use their flaws as sharpening points
-To encourage others so that they can push themselves to achieve goals they didn’t think were possible
-To represent those with Epilepsy on a greater level than myself
-To show others that their diagnosis/hardships/pain can only add to their capabilities

MY GOALS
-To further elevate the reputation of community colleges #EndCCStigma
-To increase membership acceptance as PTK provides the resources and tools to instill self-confidence so that they believe that they can achieve whatever they set their mind to
-Advocate for people to better themselves and the community around them.

EPILEPSY
My epilepsy diagnosis of idiopathic generalized epilepsy does not define me. Although, this diagnosis means that I have grand mal seizures and my recent diagnosis of SUDEP tells the tale that for the rest of my life I have a 1/100 chance of having a fatal seizure. This has only made me a stronger man.

My Story
AT THE AGE OF 13, I experienced bullying and shortly thereafter I was diagnosed with epilepsy. The severity of my diagnosis led to my absence of school for 3 months and I became very withdrawn and eventually experienced severe depression and social anxiety. An inferiority complex formed in high school and I believed that I would never amount to anything.

THE YEAR FOLLOWING HIGH SCHOOL, I managed to get a job as a busser at a nearby restaurant. I put all of my efforts towards my job and I began developing connections with my coworkers. I then finally realized I had untapped potential and decided to go back to school and study Psychology.

I BECAME A MEMBER OF PTK in my first semester and the VP of college project the following semester. Soon after I decided to run for international office and during this time, I was diagnosed with SUDEP (Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy) and became very withdrawn again. This was extremely difficult at first, although through sharing my experience with others, I discovered that hardship and pain connects us all and continued to run for international office to be an inspiration to others.

THANK YOU FOR READING!