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November 11, 2013

To all of the current members and Executive Board,

Please accept this letter of resignation from the University of Southern California College Democrats as President. My last day with the club will be December 4th, and my last day at USC will be December 17th, 2013.

Though I am unsure where my career choices will lead me, I will return shortly to Los Angeles as a teacher in the nearby area through Teach for America. I hope to remain in politics and find a multitude of ways to help my community for as long as I can.

Thank you all so much for two and a half years with the club. I have worked alongside some excellent colleagues, have found lasting friendships, and have had so many opportunities to grow and develop in my career field.

During my short tenure, I am proud to have helped this organization endorse two candidates in special elections, gather six organizations for a regional bonfire, rebrand the organization in its entirety, expand our merchandise and fundraising options, send members to official political fundraisers, launch a website with the most social media activity in this organization's history, send over 40 members to the California Democratic Convention, and overall revitalize a club with a great team during an off-year election season.

I leave you with this small lesson that being involved with this organization has reminded me over and over again - take the opportunities and take the risks. We are lucky to be able to gather on a weekly basis and help one another create a safe space for our political discourse and ideas. With that being said, it is up to each of us to take political, social, and academic opportunities as they come. No one said getting your foot in the political door is easy. What I can promise you is this - take the risks, put yourself out in the field, and keep asking how to get involved and you can find a way to make your own dent in the universe. That is what I had hoped to teach as the leader of this organization, and now I ask you to help me continue that work.

I will never forget my time at USC with the College Democrats. Please let me know if you need any assistance with the transition.

All the best,

Catherine Shieh