



November 21, 2013

To the members and executive board of the USC College Democrats,

Yesterday I had the special honor of being elected the new President of the USC College Democrats. I am joined by a wonderful new executive board that I am excited to be serving with: Shikhar Gupta as Vice President, Alec White as Political Director, and James Drevno as Financial Director.

Catherine Shieh, our exiting President, will assist me in transitioning into the Presidency. Catherine is the first Asian-American to be elected President and has done a phenomenal job in transforming this club into a powerful political resource for students at USC. As President, Catherine presided over the rebranding of the club, the recruitment of our members to network at political fundraisers and functions, a complete redesign of our website in both aesthetics and content, an impressive feat of bringing in a guest speaker nearly every week, and a large increase in the number of active connections the club maintains. None of this would have been accomplished without the strong support of our exiting executive board: Lindsay Rapkin as Vice President, Sam Dorn as Political Director, and James Drevno as Financial Director. I hope to carry on this new phase of our club and expand in more directions.

With midterm elections and convention coming up, there will be no shortage of work next semester. For those of you looking to get deeply involved in the political process, our new Political Operatives Program will officially start at the beginning of next semester. As an organization, the USC College Democrats exists to help you achieve your political aspirations, wherever those may lie.

For me, these aspirations have allowed me to realize that my love of science, my desire for active involvement in politics, and my personal identity as an individual cannot only coexist but that the three can complement each other in unique ways. Because of this, I am proud to be serving as the first transgender woman and openly LGBTQ-identified President of the USC College Democrats.

I want to thank all of you dedicated members who bring your passions to each meeting and event. The support and friendship I have received through this club has been instrumental in my personal growth, and it is this friendship and support that I continually strive to extend towards all of you in the club. If Cat has taught me one thing, it is to see each new person I meet as a friend. As your friend, I hope to work with all of you College Democrats here at USC.

Fight on,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah Herald". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sarah Herald