

McKenna M. Raimer

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I am interested in serving as the 2023-2024 Physical Health and Safety Director to continue building a campus environment that prioritizes safety, happiness, and overall health for students, faculty, and staff. My goal for this coming year is to improve communication around wellness initiatives, address safety gaps for walkways and crosswalks around campus, and further educate the student body on emergency preparedness training.

I am a dual-degree J.D./Master of Health Administration student at the University of Iowa, class of 2024. I graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in medical anthropology and a Bachelor of Arts in criminology, law and justice and religious studies from the University of Iowa in 2020.

My academic career has focused on improving and growing my understanding of healthcare in the United States. A type one diabetic for 17 years, healthcare has been a fundamental and immutable aspect of my life and has solidified my passion for creating a more equitable, accessible, and cost-effective healthcare system. I have been fortunate to have found such a strong support system at the University of Iowa for my disability and have learned so much about advocating for my peers, friends, and family. As I work towards finishing my degrees and entering the healthcare workforce, my career goal is to establish myself as a healthcare executive who can adeptly navigate the political and legal landscape of healthcare and seek to provide benefit to, and advocate for, all members of my community.

During undergrad, I served as president of the University of Iowa Chapter (Type1Hawks) of the College Diabetes Network (CDN) from 2018 to 2020 and worked to achieve its mission to “offer a place of peace, support, and advocacy on campus and in Iowa City through fellowship, fundraising, and outreach.” In the fall of 2020, and during my first year of law school, I began leading UI Students for Disability Advocacy & Awareness (UISDAA) as the president-elect. UISDAA is an organization both by and for disabled students and their allies, and works to raise critical disability awareness on campus, provide a community and supportive space for students with disabilities, and promote disability justice on campus. I resigned from this position in December 2020 to allow the new constitution to be enacted and for restructuring of the executive board. Both Type1Hawks and UISDAA taught me the value of a community and the importance of diversity and inclusion in all spaces, for all individuals.

My education and experiences make me a great candidate for this position and help demonstrate my dedication to students at the university and a passion for health promotion. Working with the current Physical Health and Safety Director, Erin Sullivan, this past year has been a great introduction into student government and the inner workings of the position. I look forward to continued involvement with GPSG and the Physical Health and Safety Committee in any capacity possible.