



Aria Chalileh

She/Her

College Democrats

Major: Political Science

What does the Lion Royalty Homecoming Court represent to you? What characteristics do you possess that make you an ideal candidate for the Court?

The Lion Royalty Homecoming Court portrays the absolute excellence that TCNJ has to offer. It showcases TCNJ's phenomenal students and the positive impact that they have been able to leave on TCNJ's campus; these students have made the most of their TCNJ experience and are exemplary leaders. The Lion Royalty Homecoming Court are role models who can motivate underclassmen to follow their footsteps, inspiring them to be the best version of themselves.

Throughout my time at TCNJ, I looked up to previous Lion Royalty representatives and winners, all of whom had an incredible impact on my time at TCNJ and showcased the potential success that was out there. I believe I am an ideal candidate for the Lion Royalty Court because of my passion and commitment to TCNJ, as well as the leadership qualities that I possess. Throughout my time, I have taken advantage of the many opportunities that TCNJ has to offer in order to fine tune my skills in leadership and public relations. I have become involved in organizations and taken the initiative to be a change-maker on campus. However, most importantly, I have made an effort to create change on TCNJ's campus that will last far beyond my years here. Although I have not come across other role models who have shared my Middle Eastern heritage on stages like Lion Royalty, I would be truly privileged to have the ability to break that glass ceiling and represent young women with my background and showcase their capabilities.

What is your favorite thing about TCNJ and why?

What I cherish most about TCNJ is the heartfelt sense of community and the boundless opportunities. After feeling lost for all four years of high school, I came to TCNJ and I found a home. I found a place where I could thrive — whether with my leadership, socially, or academically. TCNJ's deep culture of care has allowed me to form meaningful relationships with the most supportive peers, staff, and faculty, and it is something that I will always cherish about this institution. I can wholeheartedly say that I will carry the friendships I've formed, the lessons I've learned, and my limitless lion heart into the next chapter of my life. Furthermore, the power of opportunity at TCNJ has been unparalleled! With the encouragement and mentorship of faculty and staff, I have been able to accomplish the goals that I have set for myself. From founding the College Democrats organization and assisting with the recognition of the Middle Eastern North African Association, running in 3 Student Government elections, and obtaining an internship in the Governor of New Jersey's Office, I have been blessed to have a number of experiences that have been nothing short of transformative. TCNJ's education and opportunities have set me up for success after I have graduated from TCNJ — a testament to the incredible, life-changing culture of this institution. My time at TCNJ has been remarkable, and I will forever be proud to be a lion.