



Olivia Chiarella

She/Her

Delta Zeta (ΔZ)

Major: Communications

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 represents many of the traits I've worked to build within myself during my time here: leadership, mentorship, and a deep sense of TCNJ pride. It's more than just a title; it symbolizes the positive influence one person can have on the campus community. Previous winners like James Chiriboga and Jazailis Gual have embodied these values through their ability to inspire and uplift their peers, creating an environment where others can thrive. Their dedication to helping others succeed is something I admire and strive to emulate. My leadership minor, along with my roles as Senior Class President and PR Senior Leader with TCNJ Ambassadors, have given me opportunities to mentor and support my peers. In my role with the Ambassadors, I guide new members through the certification process, helping them earn their stripes and become confident representatives of TCNJ. Mentorship is at the core of this role, as I work closely with students to ensure they feel supported throughout their journey. As Senior Class President, I advocate for my classmates, ensuring their voices are heard. I take pride in organizing events that help students grow both personally and professionally. Whether I'm driving a golf cart on Roscoe's Birthday and handing out swag, shaking pom-poms on Lion's Day or Accepted Students Day, or simply engaging with others in the student center, I truly bleed blue and gold, and I'm always encouraging my peers, prospective students, and alumni to share in that same pride for TCNJ.

What is your favorite thing about TCNJ and why?

What I like most about TCNJ is the close-knit community and the feeling of belonging it fosters. Here, professors don't just know your name, they really care about your success and are always willing to go the extra mile, whether that means offering to grab lunch to discuss your goals or casually checking in even when you're no longer in their class. Here, it's impossible to walk across campus without stopping for a quick chat with a peer, which makes TCNJ feel more like a home than a college campus. Here, the alumni network is so strong, that I was able to get my first internship and a return offer from a company founded and owned by a TCNJ graduate. Here, students are allowed to mentor other students, either at the tutoring center in Roscoe West or within their respective student organizations. Here, students can actively apply their skills in real-world settings through a wide range of clinical opportunities, co-ops, and internships.

Full disclosure: Choosing just one favorite thing about TCNJ is a difficult task because it's the combination of dedicated staff, endless opportunities, and a vibrant sense of community that makes this a truly special place to be.