



# Johanne Odu

BOD CANDIDATE

**1. Provide a brief introduction of yourself.**

My name is Johanne Odu, and I am more than just a student at Conestoga College. I am currently in my third year, studying International Business Management with a major in Supply Chain Management. I am a leader, problem solver, and community builder. As a student ambassador and African Black and Caribbean (ABC) advisory member, I help students feel at home and ensure every voice is heard. Outside school, I run a hair braiding business, which has strengthened my communication and problem-solving skills. Balancing school, work, and leadership has prepared me to bring strong representation to the CSI Board of Directors.

**2. What inspired you to run for this position and what do you hope to accomplish if elected?**

I am deeply passionate about student advocacy, inclusion, and community building. As a student, I have faced academic pressures, financial struggles, and the challenge of finding belonging on campus. Through my roles as a student ambassador and experience with Bring On the Sunshine (BOTS), I have learned the importance of representation and ensuring every student feels heard. If elected, I would work on initiatives that make the challenges students face easier to navigate. I also want to strengthen diversity and inclusion by ensuring that all students feel truly supported in CSI's decisions.

**3. What qualities and skills do you have that make you a strong student leader and effective board member?**

I bring strong leadership, advocacy, and problem-solving skills to this role. Through experience with Bring On the Sunshine (BOTS) and as a student ambassador and ABC advocate, I have connected with students from different backgrounds, listened to their concerns, and worked to ensure their voices are heard. Managing my academics and hair-braiding business has strengthened my decision-making and resource management skills. My passion for diversity and inclusion drives my belief that every student should feel valued. If given the opportunity, I will use these skills to ensure CSI supports all students and creates a more inclusive campus community.

**4. Why should students vote for you and what sets you apart from other candidates?**

Students should vote for me because I am truly committed to their success. I don't just want a position; I want to be a voice for change. My leadership experience has given me the skills to advocate for inclusivity and student needs. I understand the struggles of balancing academics, work, and finding belonging. I take action, not just talk about change. By voting for me, students choose a leader who listens, understands, and works to make a difference.

**5. What are some of the most pressing issues facing students on campus and how do you propose to address them through your work with the student association?**

Many students, especially international students, struggle with feeling connected due to isolation, culture shock, and the stress of balancing academics and financial responsibilities. Through my experience with BOTS and as a student ambassador, I have seen how supportive spaces help students thrive. If elected, I will promote inclusive events, peer mentorship, and student-led activities to build connections, while pushing for better mental health and safety support and also an inclusive leadership so every student feels heard and at home at Conestoga.

**6. How do you plan to engage with students from diverse backgrounds and ensure their perspectives are represented in the board's decision making process?**

Diversity and inclusion are at the heart of everything I do. My experience with student engagement as a student ambassador has shown me how important it is for students to feel represented, have a safe space, and belong to a community. I am open to meeting with students to hear their feedback and ensure their voices shape CSI's work. While working with CSI bodies, I will build strong connections through events, workshops, and clubs while working with cultural and interest-based groups to create inclusive spaces where students can connect, share experiences, and feel truly valued.

