



## SASE VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

# ABIGAIL CHIAOKHIAO

YEAR:	SOPHOMORE
MAJOR:	BIOPRODUCTS ENGINEERING
BOARD POSITION:	SASE LABS CO-DIRECTOR
RUNNING MATE:	JERRY JIANG

### INTRODUCTION

Hi! I'm Abi, a second year in Bioproducts Engineering (a greener sub-branch of materials science). Helping people has always been a passion of mine, which I usually do through leading or teaching, which is why I chose my current position as SASE Labs Co-Director. In my free time I like to program, advocate, and photograph nature. I am always looking to learn, whether from a textbook, a Google search, or from those around me - SASE being one of my favorite communities to learn from.

### WHY SASE LEADERSHIP?

Although I'm an introvert, my drive to make an impact has always overridden my shyness. I have been a leader in volunteer groups, a Robotics team, and now SASE. By running for Vice President, I hope to be able to support and strengthen the community I fell in love with in my freshman year more than I can from my current role. I first chose to be a SASE Labs Co-Director, where I've been able to help educate some of our SASE members and meet them in a time of so little connections. 2020 showed me how important it is to make those connections, and SASE helped me be a part of a community that I felt understood me more than any other had, my goal is to instill that whether we are online or in-person. Feeling like a



community as we navigate school, professionalism, and growing up is important. While strengthening our ability to support you all by helping in these aspects of life, I hope to also improve your pride in yourselves as Asians, Asian-Americans, and Asians in STEM.

### **WHAT DOES SASE MEAN TO YOU?**

When I was navigating the ocean of student groups, I attended many events (mostly the ones with free food pre-COVID) - often an Asian student group. What drew me to SASE was the community SASE UMN has created. The board members approached me and the atmosphere of the events made it much easier to meet and talk to people I hadn't before. Often, you hear of the successes of Asian & Asian-American students, but we all know it's not so easy. Professionalism, studying techniques, and being proud of your culture, is not always intuitive. I have always felt clumsy professionally, unsure in my studies, and disconnected from the "Asian" part of being Asian-American having grown up in majority-white suburbs. The pillars and actions of SASE have made it so that I can improve in all those areas. SASE I believe is strong in our professional pillar and I wish to continue support of that strength, but without being in-person, it has been more difficult to continue those cultural and community aspects. Through interacting with the SASE community personally, I have been able to have a bit of that for myself. To be able to have a community to bond over our shared experiences in school and life as an Asian-American has been invaluable during lockdown, and I hope to add that as an aspect of what others can love about SASE UMN.

### **WHAT/WHERE DO YOU WANT SASE TO BE BY THE END OF YOUR TERM?**

After a year as isolating as 2020, I want to improve the interconnectivity of our community. If we are able to be in-person, we plan to expand our volunteering opportunities for our members to work together and do good work for our community. Online, we plan to be present through our social



media such as Instagram and Discord, as well as be transparent as to what we are up to via our website and newsletter. SASE helped me connect with my identity as an Asian-American, and one way has been through shared experiences, jokes, and cultural advocacy. I hope to add this to our community in interactive ways such as media sharing and discussion topics. In SASE Board, Jerry and I hope to improve our efficiency in supporting our community by continuing to nourish our relationships with sponsors and companies to be able to support you professionally. Within our group, we hope to improve communication both within and outside of the board. We want to hear from you how we can best support you, so we want to be able to gather continuous feedback from general as well as board members. In order to grow our community, we would like to involve other SASE chapters, through social media and Zoom, chapters from all over the nation can join in our events and activities. Alongside this, we also want to strengthen our relationships with other student organizations on campus through collaborations. As a student group, I hope to see SASE grow, especially in being a supportive and educational place for our members.

