Dear fellow Huskies,

We are Naomi Bolden and Ian Pearson, President and Speaker of your NIU Student Government Association. We reach out to you today to challenge you to step up and get involved by voting on March 17th in the Illinois General Primary, and then register and prepare to vote on November 3rd in the General Election. Youth turnout in the elections process has not yet matched the rates at which we turned out in 2016. We believe that Huskies can change the narrative. It doesn't matter what motivates you, whether it be a policy issue, a sense of civic duty, or just a belief in being a voice for our generation – just vote.

In the 2018 midterms we saw encouraging signs that with a little bit of help, NIU students will stand up and take an active role in the democratic process. In order to foster this spirit, the Student Government Association joined the Huskies Vote initiative because we believe that it is crucial that students can be empowered to get involved within the community, get educated, and make a difference in our elections process. Over the last few years, SGA has served the student body through advocacy and community engagement.

Together with all of you, SGA has fought for adequate mental health resources, stood up against gun violence and hatred, fought for increased access to institutional aid for our fellow UndocuHuskies, for stronger student employee protections, to make campus a more sustainable home, for a rigorous and transparent Title IX process, and many other important causes. We are continually proud of the hard work and passion the NIU student body puts into advocacy around the causes that affect us. Despite any apprehensions, we encourage you to once again to step up take part in the democratic process.

Given certain complications due to COVID-19, we understand that many students who are registered to vote in Dekalb County may not be in town. If you are registered in DeKalb County and are now at home, you may be able to re-register. If you intend to register or re-register in Illinois, you will need to bring two forms of ID, including one with your residential address. Look for more detailed information on your country clerk’s website for same day registration guidelines and same day registration centers. If you are on campus, DeKalb County polling places will be open.

For additional information on how to register or vote, all you have to do is visit https://www.niu.edu/huskies-vote/index.shtml, which contains all the resources necessary to stay informed on deadlines and upcoming events. Once face-to-face instruction resumes, you are welcome to stop by the SGA offices in the ground floor of the Holmes Student Center for more information! Every single vote counts; your voice will affect the direction of our NIU community in DeKalb, in Illinois, and in the United States.

We look forward to joining you in this effort. Go Huskies!

Naomi Bolden
President, NIU Student Government Association

Ian Pearson
Speaker of the Senate, NIU Student Government Association