

VOTE ZAK #1 for NUS Block of 15

MY EXPERIENCE...

- **2010-2011: Charities Officer -**
Burton and South Derbyshire College Students' Union
- **2010-2011: LSIS Awards -**
Highly Commended Learner Voice of the Year Award
- **2011-2013: Sabbatical President -**
Burton and South Derbyshire College Students' Union
- **2012: London 2012 Olympic Torchbearer**
- **2012-2013: NUS FE Zone Committee Member**

MY HISTORY...

- Worked alongside NUS to campaign against the introduction of FE Fees which included beginning an online petition to campaign about #no2FEfees which was then use nationally
- Developed a set of Students' Union CSFs for us to reflect upon and make necessary changes to our Union
- Organised local Voluntary and School Liaison events to promote the value of gaining new skills and providing young people with valuable information about academic and vocational qualifications

"From the first time I met Zak, I knew he would achieve amazing things! He empowers and inspires not only his students but me and the rest of the student movement. He is incredibly motivated and an asset to anyone working with him"

Jeni-Marie Pittuck - President, City College Norwich Students' Union

I am running for Block because I believe that nationally students are not receiving the guidance and attention that they deserve. Now that the Raising of Participation Age is upon us, schools are telling their tudents that Sixth Form is the only option for them - therefore undermining the value of a vocational Qualification and setting students back if this is not their desired option.

If elected, I would ensure that as a National Union, we place our thoughts to those who do not receive the right guidance and support about local Colleges and that we do all we can to at least have the option to inform students about what a college has to offer before closing the door shut without it being opened in the first place. We always talk about BTECs not being given the same value as an A Level and that Universities prefer seeing academic qualifications rather than a vocational qualification. My focus will be to have these looked at equally, that students are not denied a progression route because they have undertaken a BTEC and that we promote the value of these.

If elected, I will:

- ✓ Ensure that as a National Union we work with Schools, Colleges and Universities to provide the right advice for young people and their future
- ✓ Make sure that Vocational Education is seen as equal as the academic route of A Levels and that it can amount to the same opportunity when applying for University or Employment