

## To Whom It May Concern:

As a faculty member at Penn State Abington in the Education program, I have had the pleasure of observing Samuel Gonzalez in his imbricated roles of student and general leader in his cohort. Given his exemplary work and presence on campus, I would like to highly recommend Samuel for admission to your program.

I feel confident that Mr. Gonzalez is a strong candidate for several reasons, not the least of which is that his work ethic has always been exemplary. During the few times he struggled in light of challenges presented in a course curriculum that is designed to help students question the very foundations of their understandings of society, he was mature enough to seek help to ensure his success. More importantly, when Mr. Gonzalez had control of a particular concept, he was aware of others' needs and quickly stepped in to help his classmates when it was appropriate. Further, when Mr. Gonzalez had mastered the material, he was eager to seek out additional work and materials.

In addition to his academic achievements, it is my understanding that Mr. Gonzalez has consistently been an active member of our Abington community. Mr. Gonzalez is known on campus for his involvement in student government within the Chancellor's office, and more locally with the education program. He has worked hard to ensure that he is a part of the community in ways that is beneficial to his own social growth as well as the growth of the community, always attending directly to questions of equity and access. I believe that his skills as a community organizer have led to a particular type of drive and determination that has become ingrained in his sense of self. Whether it is in a campus meeting or the classroom, I get the strong sense that Samuel has used the experiences of working with others along with his fortitude of self as a platform to build confidence and grace that will be vital to his future success.

Finally, on a personal note, I have noticed that Mr. Gonzalez approaches life with a certain ethical fidelity that is often rare in today's cultural norms and values. He owns his mistakes, looks out for others, and approaches personal decisions with a strong moral compass. He has volunteered in the university community in ways that embody a sense of social justice, helping students whenever possible. While these are not necessarily skills that are measured for academic considerations, I feel they should be reflected in the selection process of your program as it will be indicative of the kind of individual he will be as he participates as a scholar, activist, and student.

It is with these reasons that I offer high recommendation for Samuel Gonzalez without reservation. His drive, determination, academic achievement, commitment to teamwork and sense of affect truly demonstrates an exemplary individual to consider for your program. If you have any questions about this recommendation, please do not hesitate to contact me at 215.881.7913 or at <a href="mailto:bfw5188@psu.edu">bfw5188@psu.edu</a>.

Sincerely,

Boni Wozolek, PhD

Assistant Professor Penn State University, Abington College