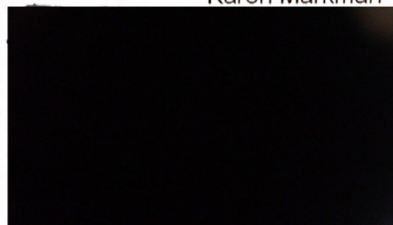


Letter of Recommendation
Spring 2020 | Aldo Daniel Medina

Context

Attached is the letter of recommendation written by one of my teachers, Karen Markman, in my support. She was the lead of Arsenal Technical High School's law and public policy program, and she gave me a copy after retiring. It's incredibly humbling to be described in this way, and it was an immense honor to have shared four years of my life with my Indianapolis Public Schools friends and family.

Karen Markman



To the Selection Committee,

It is a sincere pleasure to write this recommendation for Aldo Medina. In the 30 years I spent as a teacher for the Indianapolis Public Schools, Aldo is without a doubt the most exceptional student I ever had the pleasure to work with. Aldo's academic credentials are extraordinary and speak for themselves. However, it isn't Aldo's exceptional academic talent that makes him stand out for me, rather it is his desire to understand the world around him and his drive to accomplish change which I find so compelling.

Arsenal Technical High School is an inner-city school with a diverse student body. It does not cater to students like Aldo and students with his level of academic talent often choose to transfer. I know that Aldo wrestled with the decision of whether to stay or leave. In the end he chose to stay. I believe that this decision is what ultimately fueled Aldo's advocacy on behalf of himself and others and was the driver of his early and spirited involvement in the legislative process at the state level through his tenure on the Indiana Legislative Youth Council and his work as Chairman of that body for the past year.

I believe this decision also enabled Aldo to grow personally and contributed to a depth of experience that other academically superior students are not often able to acquire. Aldo's experiences at Tech taught him to feel comfortable with all sorts of people, many of whom do not look or think like him. And because Aldo made the choice to stay in an environment that would push his boundaries, he had to learn to be both flexible and adaptable, invaluable skills that will serve him well in the future. Aldo's friendships are many and varied. He is liked and respected by his peers as well as his teachers. He is not only smart, he is thoughtful and kind. I am honored to have been his teacher.

Sincerely,

Karen Markman
Retired, Arsenal Technical High School
Law and Public Policy