

November 25, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my pleasure to write this letter of recommendation for Sergio Mancilla for his application for Evergreen Graduate Admissions. I have had the privilege of working with Sergio for two school years directly as he was an AVID tutor, and the college success coach, and most recently, as a guest teacher for my Science and AVID classes for the past two years. I also have known him since he was a 7<sup>th</sup> grade student at Gray Middle School. He truly is a motivated person that inspires those around him.

Sergio truly loves working with others and pushing them to greatness. He started to realize that during his time, as a student, that he wanted to give back to his community so he took on a role at Gray Middle School, as an Americorps College Success Foundation Coach. He worked with students from the community he grew up in and showed them that they could work through the struggles and become more than by going to college. He learned about a class called AVID. He took that opportunity and then he truly undertook the mission of AVID, which is to “close the the opportunity gap by preparing all students for readiness and success in a global society. He made it a part of his week to become a tutor in these classrooms as these students are the most college ready students in the building.

Mr. Mancilla designed many ways for students to stay connected during a difficult time when he was not allowed in classrooms because of the global pandemic. He created a website for students to access and push themselves to become better writers and was able to do computer giveaways based on the student’s writing and on need. He truly went above and beyond. He continued to be an AVID tutor, even while we were online.

Finally, Sergio Mancilla would be an amazing teacher for all the reasons above, but also because of his compassion for students and their overall success. If I were to start up a team, he would be among the first people I would choose. I believe that he is an amazing human and would be an asset to any team he would be a part of and I would be thrilled to call him my teammate.

Sincerely,

Paul V. Gerbyshak

Transition Specialist, Mount Tahoma High School

253-571-3771

pgerbys@tacoma.k12.wa.us