

Governor's Scholars Program 2018 Teacher Recommendation Form

MUST BE TYPED

(Once completed, please return to student or school)

Teacher's Name: Cody Cook

Student's Name: Tony DelGrosso

Subject: Spanish

☒ 9th

☒ 10th

☒ 11th

☒ AP

☒ Honors

☒ Regular

Please check the number that represents your experience with this student as related to the qualities listed below. 5 represents the highest score and 1 represents the lowest score. Indicate an "in-between" by adding a "+" or "-" after it.

Participation in class discussions/on task behavior in class	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5
Inquisitiveness, interest about class topics and issues	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5
Ability to synthesize and grasp underlying principles	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5
Creativity and originality of thought	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5
Self discipline, responsibility, and dedication to following through	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5
Willingness to take academic risks	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5
Motivation, initiative, and self-starting ability	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5
Flexibility, willingness to adapt to new situations and accept changes	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5
Cooperation, Social and emotional maturity	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5
Academic integrity and honesty	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5
Consideration and attitude toward other students	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5
Contributing member of the school community	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5

As you respond to the following questions, please be sure to include specific details and examples. Brief responses that lack specific information do not provide the selection committee with sufficient information and will result in a lower score.

1. What do you consider to be the most relevant academic strength and weakness of this student?

Over the past two and a half years I have been fortunate enough to spend quite a bit of time with Tony DelGrosso. During that time I have learned that Tony is an outstanding young man who has an exceptionally bright future ahead of him. Additionally, Tony is incredibly intelligent and one of the most hard-working and driven students I have had the privilege of teaching. His ability to grasp new concepts and ask in-depth questions will always be beneficial to his academic learning. However, Tony's passion is his most relevant strength because it fuels him in everything he does. Tony has an immense amount of energy and any time you speak with him, his fervor for learning is evident and his exuberant personality shows his love and desire to further his knowledge and experience in life. Tony's love for learning and aspiration to be the best he can be in his academics and to the people around him is unparalleled among any high school students I have taught. Tony desires to learn more about other people's background, culture, and language to find a connection and be able to relate with others. He is almost fluent in Spanish and has also recently learned Korean, and his quick intellect allows him to comprehend any new topic, content, or language with ease. He has excelled in AP Spanish, as he did the previous two years I taught him and is always ahead of his other classmates.

Last school year Tony approached me about the idea of creating an elementary education program to help younger students learn Spanish before arriving to middle school. Tony was very enthusiastic with the idea and with his creative genius and passion for bilingual education among children, he was able to receive approval for and introduce the program in 4 elementary schools in our district.

Due to the million things he does daily and his outstanding involvement in so many clubs and organizations, dealing with the stress of such a busy schedule would be Tony's biggest weakness. In addition to what is mentioned above, Tony is also the President for Spanish Club and Y Club, Treasurer for the Student Council and Spanish Honors Society, member of the Academic Team, is currently junior class President, and is a member of the soccer, swimming, and track and field teams. As you can imagine, this places an exceptional demand on his time and efforts, and at times it can all be overwhelming to manage. Tony, however, has managed to deal with the stress by finding comfort in volunteering at a local homeless shelter. The conversations he has with the patrons there help him to keep things in perspective and he often leaves there with a heightened sense of optimism and determination to not let his stress get in the way of achieving his goals and dreams.

2. What is most unique about this student as he/she relates to other students? If you are aware of any hardships/conditions (social, emotional, or otherwise) that may affect this student's participation in the Governor's Scholars Program, please note them here.

Tony has amazing communication skills and a very comfortable manner of speaking with anyone no matter what their age. His ability to speak to any person of any age, race, or profession is astounding to me because he never appears to be nervous or shy with anybody. This trait will serve him well in life and already has, as he participated in the National Security Language Initiative for youth the summer of 2015 in South Korea. Tony won a scholarship to travel abroad to a university in South Korea, where he attended intensive four-hour language classes daily for six weeks and lived with a Korean family to fully immerse himself in the program. The reason for Tony's interest in the Korean language and culture is an admirable one. His aunt adopted his younger cousin from South Korea 6 years ago and Tony wanted a way to teach her about her native language and culture. He is always looking for a connection to others and a way to make his network of the world smaller, yet live life bigger and fuller. While living in Korea, he found his cousin's foster parents who cared for her the first year of her life and met with them to get to know her background. He soon established a relationship with them and shared family pictures and brought back gifts from the foster parents for his family.

Tony's volunteer service did not falter during his time in Korea, as he volunteered at a soup kitchen and taught English to impoverished youth around the ages of 6-7. His love for people and culture is nothing more than extraordinary and a joy to witness. Tony's talents to communicate, learn, and love others' differences will assist him in quickly making new friends and being a support for the other participants at GSP.

Tony's family has struggled for much of his life. It was not uncommon for him growing up to hear that his dad was being laid off from work or for his family to be forced to depend on an unemployment check. Because of this, Tony realized long ago that if he wanted to go to college he would need to get a scholarship. That type of expense was simply not something his family was capable of covering. Each and every financial and personal setback has only stoked the burning fire inside him to achieve that goal. To say that most students don't display this type of maturity would be an extreme understatement. I have no doubt Tony will be extremely successful in the future because he knows what he wants, what it takes to get there, and will work tirelessly to make it happen.

3. Based on your experience with the student, what would you expect the single greatest contribution of this student to be at GSP?

Tony's unquenchable thirst for knowledge so that he may better himself and the world around him is astounding. Because of this, I feel that he would attack each and every aspect of the GSP experience with an enthusiasm unknown to mankind. One example of this occurred when I showed my students a motivational video that really resonated with Tony. The message was to "take advantage of the opportunity of a lifetime in the lifetime of the opportunity." The Governor's Scholars Program IS Tony's opportunity of a lifetime, and based

upon what I've described to you about him above, one would have to believe that he will take full advantage. I believe that his intrinsic motivation to learn and his own life experience can raise the level of discourse that occurs among students with the GSP. Those experiences and viewpoints are likely to be markedly different than other students and therefore can only serve to enhance the diversity and collective thought of those participating in the program.

Many students apply to attend programs like GSP without ever knowing why they want to attend. Tony DelGrosso knows exactly why he wants to attend GSP. He wants to attend because he knows it is the opportunity of a lifetime for him. He wants to attend so that he can learn more than what his home county has to offer him so that one day he may accomplish his dream of becoming a neurologist. Tony is going to be successful because, as he sees it, he has no other choice. So when you ask me what his single greatest contribution to GSP will be I would say this: Tony will benefit from this experience in ways that are unfathomable to you and I. He will soak up every iota of this experience and use the knowledge he acquires there to make the world a better place. His single greatest contribution to GSP will be that some day in the future when he is, hopefully, coming up with the cure for brain cancer we can all point to him and say "now that is what GSP is all about".

4. If information that you feel important is not included elsewhere in your recommendation, please feel free to include here.

In this portion of the recommendation, I would like to acknowledge Tony's humble spirit. In today's society the media has created the image of an "awesome" life to be full of wealth, expensive clothes, nice cars, and an amount of likes on Instagram to match your bank account. While this is what the main stream media, and the belief that the typical young adult will fall into, Tony is the complete opposite. To him, an amazing life is filled with things that give off amazing vibes. To him, every person is viewed through the same window and whether they are rich, poor, Asian, or white will make no difference in his relationship with them.

From what I understand about GSP, it is all about making a diverse group of people one giant community of leaders and taking that community and making it into a family. With the love and open mind Tony has, he would without a doubt be a perfect match for GSP as he seems to build a close bond with everyone he comes into contact with. I am positive this program would change his life, but to be honest he would also change the life of this program. I say this because over the years, I have taught many unique and intelligent students, but very few, if any, have had the qualities Tony possesses to actually meet their full potential and help others reach theirs. With the opportunities that GSP gives students, Tony could fulfill all of his dreams and become valuable contributor to our society.