

October 29, 2013

Dear Board Members,

My name is Rosemarie Marcelino, and I am a 26 year old woman passionate about children and youth. I was born and raised in a small town called Oxnard, located in Southern California. I attended the local public schools in the area until I reached the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. From 2001 until 2005, I was accepted to attend a private boarding high school in Carpinteria, California. In 2010, I graduated from San Francisco State University with a Bachelor of Arts in Child and Adolescent Development, with a concentration in Youth and Family Services. In the past, I have worked in a range of communities. To name a few, I was as an After-School Program Coordinator for middle school students, a Pre-School Educator for age's 2.5 to 4 year old toddlers, and a Case Manager for substance abused women and children. Currently, I work in Downtown Oakland as a Property Manager in Commercial Real Estate. Although my current job allows me to use my interpersonal skills, I have found myself wanting to be part of a community that directly impacts youth and education.

Participating in meaningful school discussions can bring invaluable skills for anyone, since it requires one to recognize and acknowledge an issue, think critically about the issue, use ones voice to speak about it, and then problem solve to come up with the best resolution. In the article, *From Program Participant to Engaged Citizen: A Developmentally Journey*, written by Lynne Borden and Joyce Serido, quotes the following, "Civically engaged youth and adults contribute to the health and stability of their communities through their involvement in the political process both directly (e.g., voting, running for office) and indirectly (e.g. addressing social justice issues, volunteering in community organizations)." I believe it is important for students and adults to be involved in school decisions, because it empowers the ones that are directly affected by these decisions. To challenge our own perspective to cooperatively think and understand one another builds collaboration in the community, whether one may personally agree or disagree. In decisions that affect a school-community requires one to think not only for the best interest of oneself but for the best interest for the school community as a whole.

Becoming part of the ACLC Board would be an opportunity to directly contribute to a school community that promotes and nurtures positive development and a sense of social responsibility through the collective participation from students, parents, and community members. Because I have taken a keen interest in the development of children and young adults, I believe it is important for young people to become positive members in their society. Though having individual thoughts, ideas, and expressions are vital to ones independence, I believe ones independence is developed through the reflection of his or her peers. ACLC appears to have created a conscious movement in improving the standard academic model by fully encompassing its students to think critically as members of its community. As it is essential to create a safe place for students to feel heard and acknowledged about the issues that directly influence their education and development, I feel I can offer a balanced perspective as a community board member.

Sincerely,

Rosemarie Marcelino  
[rmarcelino@yahoo.com](mailto:rmarcelino@yahoo.com)  
805.252.2332