



Southern Delaware Alliance for Racial Justice

... ending racism and its corrosive consequences

2020 Scholarship Application Form

Applicant Name: Alexander Mendez Reyes Date of Birth: 10/26/2001

Home Address: 102 Garden Cir.
Georgetown, DE 19947

Contact Telephone (Home) n/a (Cell) 302-396-5268

Email Address: mr4540286@gmail.com

Current High School: Sussex Academy High School

School Counselor's Name: Debbie Fees

Email: debbie.fees@saas.k12.de.us Tel: 302-856-3636

College(s) or University(ies) applied to/under consideration: Colgate University,
Occidental College, University of Delaware, Pitzer College, Bard
College, Dickinson College, Union College, & Whitman College

College or University you have chosen (if known): Pitzer College (early decision)

Affirmation: I hereby affirm that all the above stated information provided by me is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

I understand that if chosen as a scholarship recipient, according to the SDARJ Scholarship policy, I must provide evidence of enrollment/registration at an accredited, not-for-profit post-secondary institution before my scholarship funds can be awarded.

Signature of Applicant: Alexander Mendez Reyes Date: 02/20/20

Signature of Parent/Guardian: William Mendez Date: 02/20/20

Complete Application Packets with items 1-6 must be received by/postmarked by April 3, 2020 at:

Scholarship Program
Southern Delaware Alliance for Racial Justice
PO Box 306, Lewes, DE 19958

Thank you for your submission. If you have questions, please contact:
Gwendolyn Miller, grybm@outlook.com.

Southern Delaware Alliance for Racial Justice Scholarship: Define what a "just world" consists of, then talk about events or people in your life who have contributed to making the world more just. Imagine your readers to be aged 40-80 and concerned about racial justice in current life. Help them understand your essay by supplying specific details and by painting a vivid picture of people and events.

People Helping People

Being a first-generation, Latinx student living in a household that faces financial problems has been difficult. Seeing my family live from paycheck to paycheck with the instability of their jobs, and sometimes even needing to borrow money from friends just to buy food and pay rent, has made me view education as the most critical component to a successful future. However, it is not easy to get access to a higher education with my background, as it makes seeking a college degree very difficult. In fact, most students like me, never even make it to college, let alone graduate with a bachelor's degree. Nonetheless, with the help and support from my community, many have succeeded against all odds.

In our society, the color of my skin, my family background, and my financial situation are seen as a disadvantage to many. However, with the non-profit organization, TeenSHARP, where they help low-income, Latinx and African-Americans students be admitted and eventually thrive on college campuses, I have been able to overcome many challenges to achieve my dream. My dream has always been to step foot on a college campus. Because of the amazing people running the organization, I have been able to navigate high school and gain admission to my dream school, where I know I will be shaped into an even stronger leader. I truly believe a "just world" consists of people helping one another, despite different socioeconomic and ethnic backgrounds, to build a stronger, closer, and educated community.

Word Count: 250

ALEXANDER ALAIN MENDEZ REYES

102 Garden Cir. ♦ Georgetown, DE 19947
Phone: 302-515-6516 ♦ Email: mr4540286@gmail.com

PROFILE

I plan to attend a four-year college where I will double major in chemistry and international relations. After graduation, I plan to continue towards my PhD at USC School of Pharmacy in order to fulfill my dream of becoming a pharmacist, while hoping to create my own non-profit organization to help low-income students get access to a higher education. Once in college, I intend to continue with the activities I am most passionate about such as community service, cooking Guatemalan cuisine, and many others. In high school, I have always excelled in the science department, especially when learning about the atomic structure and stoichiometric relationships in chemistry. I am also looking forward to traveling abroad and learning new cultures, while still keeping my culture alive anywhere I decide to go.

EDUCATION

Sussex Academy High School, Georgetown, DE

August 2016 – Present, Class of 2020

Cumulative GPA: 4.33 weighted [School does not rank]

9th Grade

- Honors English 9
- Honors Geometry
- Honors Integrated Science
- Honors Civics and Geography
- Honors Spanish 2

10th Grade

- Honors English 10
- Honors Algebra 2
- Honors Biology
- Honors Economics and Personal Finance
- IB Spanish SL

11th Grade

- IB Literature HL
- IB Math SL
- IB Chemistry SL
- IB History of the Americas HL
- IB Spanish HL
- IB Design Tech SL
- IB DP: Research, EE, CAS, TOK

12th Grade

- IB Literature HL
- IB Math SL
- IB Chemistry SL
- IB History of the Americas HL
- IB Spanish HL
- Theory of Knowledge
- AP Biology

INTERNSHIP AND WORK EXPERIENCE

Little Caesars

August 2018 - Present

Cashier

- Work for 10-15 hours a week to be able to ease any family financial burden.
- Responsible for communicating with customers and taking their orders, boxing pizzas, washing dirty dishes, and promoting new pizza offerings.
- Pizza maker, elevated to this position faster than any other employee.

Oliver's Landscaping Internship

June 2016 - August 2019

Secretary Assistant

- Responsible for making bills, taking phone calls, writing estimates, scheduling appointments, and translating when needed.
- Participated in the company's strategic planning meetings to assist in company growth.
- Received the company's High School Internship Award for dedicating my time to service and achieving significant growth.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**Sí, Vamos a la Universidad, Sussex Academy High School****August 2018 - Present**

Founder/Co-President

- Founded a club that serves 25 Latino students. We focus on raising awareness about college admissions and the application processes for low income minorities, specifically Latinx.
- First Latinx student club formed at Sussex Academy.
- Collaborated with a professor at the University of Delaware to host workshops and assign college mentors to high school students, mentorship occurred yearlong.
- Responsible for designing the annual agenda for the club, leading discussions, checking up with mentors and members, bringing in admission officers to talk about the college process, and hosting college tours.

Youth Philanthropy Board, Georgetown, DE**October 2018 – Present**

Selected as Board Member

- Responsible for developing RFPs, scoring rubrics, reviewing grant applications, conducting site visits, and making funding decisions.
- For the end-of-the-year ceremony, I was the speaker who introduced the non-profits who made it through the application process successfully.

Youth Advisory Council, College Board**September 2019 – Present**

Selected as Member

- Responsible for taking online surveys, attending 1-hour Google Hangout discussions, and researching topics about education and improving the college planning process.
- First in my school to get selected as a member.

Math League, Sussex Academy High School**August 2019 – Present**

President

- Responsible for bringing in practice problems, creating agenda, helping members understand hard problems, and giving pep talks during meets.

Technology Student Association, Sussex Academy High School**September 2016 - June****2019**

Vice-President

- First place in Power Wheels at state level in which in a team of five, we were able to transform a children's ride-on vehicle to a vehicle that would allow team members to compete in an endurance race. In addition to the endurance race, we had to use the CAD software to create drawings of the safety structures, create a detailed fair market value budget, and a detailed plan for the promotion and marketing of the project.
- Responsible for organizing fundraisers and meetings, and helping provide career opportunities in the STEM pathway.
- First Latino to become an officer in the association.

Student Government, Sussex Academy High School**September 2016 - Present**

Homeroom Representative

- Responsible for executing fundraising projects, sharing information about events to students in homeroom, and organizing school wide events.
- Invited to attend a Board of Directors' meeting to talk about the high school's uniform policy and how it could be improved in years to come.

La Casita, Georgetown, DE**March 2016 - Present**

Volunteer

- Over 400 hours of making lessons and helping children understand their homework at La Casita; volunteered on a weekly basis.

Chorus, Sussex Academy High School**September 2016 - Present**

Singer

- Selected as one of seven students from Sussex Academy to be part of County Chorus.
- Responsible for improving my music knowledge such as reading skills and vocal techniques, and becoming familiar with songs before rehearsal.

Leo Club, Sussex Academy High School**September 2016 - Present**

Active Member

- Responsible for participating in social activities such as book and clothing fundraisers, jean days, and other activities dedicated to service.

Family Responsibilities Georgetown, DE**June 2016 - Present**

Caretaker for my Siblings

- Responsible for caring for my siblings after school, preparing dinner, helping my 13-year-old brother with his homework, and watching my 3-year-old sister.

SUMMER ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES**Georgetown Public Library Volunteer****June 2016 - Present**

- Over 100 hours translating, and sorting and alphabetizing books; volunteered on a weekly basis.

First State Summer Camp Counselor**July 2018 - August 2018**

- Responsible for conceptualizing ideas for activities and taking good care of the children, while imparting lessons of collaboration and good sportsmanship. These children come from low-income, minority families who reside in Georgetown, Delaware.
- At the start of the camp, we start with ice-breakers and try to get to know one another, and as the camp continues, we create interactive activities and take the children on trips such as the State Fair, the beach, the museum, and the movie theater.

University of Delaware Health Sciences Camp**August 4th, 2019- August 9th, 2019**

- Focused into health science majors and careers in an on-campus, and college experience. Some health sciences covered include: nutrition, health behavior science, biotechnology, exercise science, nursing, chemistry, and communication sciences and disorders.
- Responsible for engaging with university faculty, researchers, graduate students, and undergraduate mentors.

Summer College Tour from Sussex Academy**June 24, 2019 to June 28, 2019**

- Visited colleges ranging from small liberal arts to big research universities.
- Finding the right characteristics from a college was the purpose for this experience.

Delaware Goes To College Academy**July 2018 - Present**

- Students become knowledgeable about graduation rates, student debt, and competitive colleges.
- Encourages students to be college ready and prepared to navigate the admissions process.

Higher Education Research with University of Delaware Professor**July 2018 - June 2019**

- Responsible for helping her find the barriers that Latinx, especially in Sussex County where it is predominantly Latinx face when deciding not to attend college.
- Workshops were hosted to help guide the students as well as Spanish sessions for parents.

MERITS AND SKILLS

Spanish (Proficient)

Skillful with Computer-Aided
Drafting (CAD) SoftwarePowerpoint
(Proficient)Managing Word
MicrosoftCertified to Mentor
ChildrenAble to cook pizzas and Latin
Cuisine

CPR Certified

Child Care Certified

HONORS AND AWARDS

- **November 2019**, Math Honor Society
- **May 2019**, Carson Scholar
- **August 2019**, University of Delaware Health Sciences Scholar
- **February 2018**, Rotary Youth Leadership Scholar
- **March 2018**, National Honor Society
- **September 2018**, Outstanding Service Award from the Georgetown Public Library
- **June 2018 - Present**, Delaware Goes To College Scholar from TeenSharp
- **June 2017, 2018, and 2019**, Community Service Award from Sussex Academy High School
- **2016-17, 2017-18, and 2018-19 school years**, Received Honor Roll
- **2016-17, 2017-18, and 2018-19 school years**, President's Award For Educational Excellence

Dear Southern Delaware Alliance for Racial Justice,

As the parents of Alexander Mendez Reyes, giving him an education is essential, but as a low-income family, we need assistance paying for what is left after deducting the college grant of \$72,550 from the total cost of attendance of \$79,450 (includes tuition, room and board, books and supplies, fees, transportation, and other expenses). Being the owner of a growing landscaping company has its challenges; materials have to be bought, workers need to be paid, as well as buying the necessities for my family which basically leaves my family and I with very limited funds. My wife's gross income is \$0 and my gross income is \$67,327, however, when considering the amount of money paid to my workers, my total income is \$9,327 without deducting material's cost for the company. Also, the gross income for my son, Alexander Mendez Reyes, is \$2,841. In my son's FAFSA, the estimated family's contribution was \$0. My family consists of my 18-year-old son (the applicant), 14-year-old son, 3-year-old daughter, wife, and myself. Providing for my children is my first priority and we have made due over the years, but I want nothing more than to send my oldest off to college. Also, I have to face the reality that when the winter season comes, I end up unemployed and with my wife being a stay at home mother to reduce childcare costs, my family goes through desperate times where we can only rely on help from family. As immigrants from Guatemala, my family and I have been through hardships, but with the help of our community, we have been able to raise amazing children. With this scholarship, know that you would be helping my family significantly. Alexander has worked so hard to achieve with the hope that he would earn enough scholarship to ease the burden on our family. I could not be more proud of everything he has accomplished and I hope that you will highly consider him for this scholarship.

Best,
Williams Mendez M.

March 13, 2020

To Whom It May Concern,

I am very happy to write a letter of reference for Alexander Mendez Reyes. I first heard about Alex when he applied to be a member of the TeenSHARP program, the Delaware Goes to College Academy. I was immediately impressed with his application, not only did he have stellar grades, but he was very involved with his community and school – his application was the epitome of the type of student our program hopes to attract. The Delaware Goes to College Academy is a college access program designed to assist high achieving, low-income students with the college application process. We recruit sophomores so that they can work with us in the last two years of high school to take advantage of resources they may not have been aware of so that they can become even more attractive college applicants than they were in 10th grade.

I was excited to have Alex participate in Summer Session in 2018 because he brought a great attitude and contributed nicely to group discussions. It was apparent to me early on that this student was a rock star; he had been doing all the right things without much guidance or support. Needless to say, I was impressed with Alex from the beginning. After leaving the Summer Session, Alex remained an active member of our program and even organized an event at his school to expose his classmates to the Delaware Goes to College Academy, in hopes that more of them would take advantage of our free assistance. Over the two years I have known Alex, he has continued to grow as a scholar and as a person. He is always willing to help people, including me, and I am incredibly proud of him. I know that I will continue to be proud of all that he accomplishes in his lifetime.

I am a former admissions officer from the University of Pennsylvania and I have reviewed thousands of applications from top students in the US and abroad, Alex, is among the most talented students I have come across and I highly recommend that you consider him strongly for this scholarship. Alex comes from a humble family and he has not had many resources over his lifetime. As the oldest son, he helps at home and even contributes some of the money he earns at his part time job to help with family bills. In addition to this, he is on the Youth Philanthropy Board for the Delaware Community Fund, he co-founded a college club at his school for Latino students and their parents, and he was selected as a College Board Youth Advisory member, he is one of several students selected across the nation. He does all of this while also taking the most challenging courses at his very competitive high school – like I said, this student is impressive.

I was not surprised when Alex was admitted to Pitzer College earlier this year, it is a highly selective college with less than a 10% admission rate, but Pitzer would be silly not to have this student on their campus and the admissions officers I spoke with, echoed these sentiments. As previously mentioned, Alex comes from a humble family and this scholarship would help him immensely with his expenses and his move to California. Out of all of my students, Alex is one of the hardest working and deserves to enter college with less stress about money. If you have any questions or concerns, I hope you will reach out, as I would be happy to tell you more about him if needed.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

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Kim Lopez
Senior Director, Delaware Pre-College Programs, TeenSHARP, Inc.
E: kim.lopez@teensharp.org | P: 302-329-8996

Student Transcript

1/15/2020

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To: Alexander Alain Mendez Reyes
102 Garden CIR
Georgetown, DE 19947

From: Sussex Academy High School
21150 Airport Road
Georgetown, DE 19947

Mr. Eric Anderson
(302) 856-3636

CEEB #: 080053

Student ID: 86394
Birth Date: 10/26/2001
Sussex Academy

Phone:
Grade: 12

Graduation Date:

Year: 2016-2017
Building: Sussex Academy High School

Grade: 09

Course	Final	Credit
Honors Spanish II	97	1
Honors English 9	93	1
Honors Geometry	91	1
Honors Civics & Geography	93	1
Honors Integrated Science	94	1
Intro to Engineering Design	88	1
Physical Education I	98	0.5
Elements of Writing	91	0.5
Communicative Arts	94	0.5
Health - 9	93	0.5
GPA: 4.23		Credit: 8.000

Year: 2017-2018
Building: Sussex Academy High School

Grade: 10

Course	Final	Credit
Honors English 10	93	1
Honors Algebra II	94	1
Honors Biology	91	1
Comm. Service / CAS	S	0.25
Honors Econ & Personal Finance	95	1
Principles of Engineering	91	1
Physical Education II	98	0.5
Driver Ed	91	0.25
College Prep	100	0.25
IB Spanish SL 1	94	1
Psychology	93	0.5
Intro Medical Terminology	93	0.5
GPA: 4.32		Credit: 8.250

Year: 2018-2019
Building: Sussex Academy High School

Grade: 11

Course	Final	Credit
IB Math SL 1	98	1
IB Spanish HL 1	96	1
IB Design Technology SL	78	1
IB Literature HL 1	89	1
IB History of Americas HL 1	98	1
IB DP: Research, EE, CAS, TOK	93	1
IB Chemistry SL 1	89	1
Online Career Exploration		0
Online Career Exploration		0
Community Service	S	0.25
Intro. to Nursing	94	1
GPA: 4.44		Credit: 8.250

Year: 2019-2020
Building: Sussex Academy High School

Grade: 12

Course	Final	Credit
IB Literature HL 2		0
IB Math SL 2		0
IB History of Americas HL 2		0
Theory of Knowledge 2		0
AP Biology		0
IB Chemistry SL 2		0
IB Spanish HL 2		0
DTCC SOC111		0
DTCC PSY121		0
IB Extended Essay		0
Credit:		.000

Type	GPA
Cumulative Weighted GPA	4.33

Total Credit: 24.500