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Americas High School in the Socorro ISD
Civic Engagement Scholarship

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The Potential Inside

How I Want to Help El Paso Flourish into the City it Deserves to be

El Paso is my home, my first love, and one of the biggest reasons I am who I am today. Its for this reason that I have gave my best effort in contributing and being civically involved as much as I can to my community and trying to help change to lives of all my neighbors in need. However, what I have done for my community in the past is only a beginning, as my biggest dream is to put myself in a position where I can help grow El Paso and expose the true potential I know my hometown has inside.

I am proud to say that throughout my childhood I have always given back to my community. When I was young, I served with the classic projects such as salvation army bell ringing, alter serving, and volunteering at a health center for those who have mental deficiencies. However, as I grew up, I realized I wanted to engage with my neighbors in through bigger projects and through our local government. It is for this reason that I ran for and won the position of the Libertas Academy for Law and Government, where I have leveraged my position to coordinate over 10 civic engagement projects. The three projects I have coordinated and hosted

which I am most proud of include the Veterans Law Day, Lets-Taco-Bout it, and the VITA tax service. In partnership with EPCC and the El Paso Bar association, I coordinated and hosted the first annual El Paso Veterans Law Day. At the event, Veterans, active D.O.D. member, and their families were able to receive free health screenings and got to communicate with organizations that provide health resources for the community. Those who attended were also able to receive free legal consultations with practicing lawyers regarding property disputes, financial controversy, family troubles, and any other legal questions they might have. Another civic engagement project I hosted was Lets-Taco-Bout it, where members of the community were provided a safe space to talk about any problems troubling their minds, all while eating delicious tacos. This event was a huge success as many El Pasoans were able to express their opinions regarding local politics and hear from multiple guest speakers. The final project I will showcase is the VITA tax service, where in partnership with GECU, high school students at Americas High School were trained in order to provide free tax services to members of my hometown. Once again, VITA was very effective as countless El Pasoans, specifically the elderly and those who could not afford tax services, were able to file their income taxes for no charge at all.

I truly love engaging with my community in coordinating the projects above, but I also understand that the most efficient way to be involved in your community is through local government. This is why I am proud to say that I participated in the first annual Strategic Youth Budget Advisory Committee. As a member of this exclusive community, I was able to work with City Manager Tommy Gonzales, CFO Robert Cortinas, Mayor Dee Margo, and many other city officials. Also, I was responsible for analyzing the municipal budget and drafting possible amendments to the budget that would benefit the youth and future of El Paso. I then presented these drafts, along with peers from across El Paso, to City Council. Although I am very grateful

for the knowledge I gained, I am more thankful for this experience helping me discover my passion. Because of my involvement in local office, I know dream of becoming the CFO of El Paso and helping to bring the economic development that my city deserves. I have already taken strides to achieving my dreams as I will be attending the McCombs School of Business at the University of Texas at Austin next fall. After I obtain a degree in Finance with a minor in Public Administration, I plan on obtaining my MBA while working in corporate finance in order to gain experience in the field. Finally, I want to move back to my hometown and serve as a financial analyst, eventually working my way up to the CFO off this great city. While in this position, I want to help bring economic development to the border plex in order to compete with other major metroplexes such as DFW and Houston. As the Chief Financial Officer, I also plan on ending the brain drain, lowering the poverty rate, and increasing the literacy rate and ability for underprivileged children to obtain an education.

In conclusion, I have clearly displayed that I have actively engaged myself in the community and will continue to do so for the rest of my life. It is for the above reason that I ask for your careful consideration for the corresponding award, as an investment in me is an investment in my dreams. Dreams that will not only benefit myself, but the overall prosperity of the great city of El Paso for generations to come.