

75 Woodland Farms Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15238

March 7, 2019

Outstanding Young Citizen Program
Trib Total Media
210 Wood Street
Tarentum, PA 15084

Dear Judging Panel for 2019 Outstanding Young Citizen Award:

Thank you for your service in identifying the Elite Top 100 students in this 26th year of recognizing local high school students.

This letter enthusiastically recommends Zachary Lakkis for a Scholarship Award given to seniors from the Elite Top 100 students.

Zachary is a senior at Fox Chapel Area High School. It has been my pleasure to watch Zachary develop his academic, music and leadership gifts from his elementary school years to the outstanding young adult he is today.

I was his instructor for accelerated mathematics in elementary school and witnessed his never ending thirst for learning and his growing desire to apply mathematical thinking to systems as large as the Milky Way Galaxy and as small as a single cell.

As his science fair advisor in middle school, I was in awe of the challenges Zach set for himself in his choice of science fair projects. He demonstrates an unlimited desire to increase the depth of his research and never shies away from complexity in computer model or laboratory technique to test his hypothesis. Over the years, Zachary has focused his attention on research to safely kill cancer cells. The driving force in his work is to provide friends and family struggling with cancer healing tools and compassion.

Zachary knows the value of communication to the success of his efforts. He rehearses his presentations and engages his audience with quiet wonder. His ease in sharing his passion for research comes from his compassion for the healing that research solutions can deliver and from his talent in musical performance. His appreciation of music is a gift he shares with friends of all ages.

Now, in 2019, Zach is at the peak of his high school years, preparing for medical studies. He is a respectful, thoughtful, polite,

good-humored, hard-working young man who effortlessly moves from one accomplishment to another. Zachary is a National Merit Finalist, a key performer in the orchestra and a mentor of science and mathematics to his fellow students. Take Zach's resume and translate it from words into video, then "see" Zach's passion for helping others. Zachary is leading our school district's Academic Science Fair and Science Bowl team- mentoring and tutoring high school and middle school students. Zach provides input to students on scientific content, design of their presentations and coaches students to keep balanced on competition day. He checks in with students regularly, providing support and motivation.

Observing Zachary for more than ten years gives me a lens into his future character. Many academic awards will be earned but more important, Zachary will choose to research difficult, significant biomedical systems. Zach will passionately apply all that he learns to benefit individual patients as a physician. Zachary will collaborate and communicate with international medical researchers to expand knowledge and influence policy.

I recommend Zachary Lakkis as an excellent candidate for the Trib Total Media Outstanding Young Citizen Scholarship.

Sincere Thanks,

Eva Malecki

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