



Dear Members of the Selection Committee,

I am pleased to recommend Nikita Tejwani for scholarship and award consideration. As the Manager of SOAR! at SA Youth, I work with young people who are navigating significant barriers while trying to complete their education and build a future for themselves. I value people who recognize a need, take the initiative to address it, and follow through in ways that make a real difference.

Nikita took the initiative to develop Calyqen, a career platform, and establish Caly Cares to help people use it effectively. At SA Youth, she has personally organized and led free workshops in which she guides our participants through identifying job opportunities, improving their résumés, and submitting applications. She does more than introduce students to a digital resource; she walks them through the process and helps them put it to practical use.

What has impressed me most is Nikita's ability to learn from experience and improve her approach. Across her first two workshops at SA Youth, participants reported submitting 31 job applications. After the first session, Nikita identified where students had struggled and adjusted her instruction to make the process simpler and more hands-on. In the second workshop, every participant submitted an application. On October 19, 2026, she led her largest workshop yet, personally guiding a group of 40 participants.

I also appreciate how Nikita approaches our students. Many of the young people we serve have faced obstacles that can make planning for the future feel overwhelming. She provides patient, practical guidance while emphasizing honest résumé writing and responsible use of technology. Her approach helps students develop not only job-search skills but also the confidence and judgment to use those skills responsibly.

Nikita has extended her contribution beyond the workshops she leads herself. During a train-the-trainer session, she taught SA Youth staff how to use her process to support participants in future sessions. She explained the steps, answered questions, and equipped our team to continue the work between her visits. As a program manager, I recognize the value of someone who considers not only what she can accomplish personally but also how she can help others sustain that work.

What makes Nikita's work meaningful is that she has taken her own skills and initiative and used them to address a practical need in our community. She developed a resource, brought it directly to young people, adjusted her approach based on their needs, and shared her knowledge so that our staff could build on her efforts.

I recommend Nikita enthusiastically and without reservation. She has demonstrated initiative, adaptability, and a genuine commitment to helping others move forward. I am confident she will bring those same qualities to her college community and continue finding ways to put her education to meaningful use.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Manginell
SOAR Manager!
San Antonio Youth

OUR MISSION

*SA Youth empowers San Antonio's high-risk youth and young adults to achieve their full potential
by providing quality educational programming in a safe environment.*