



**Sustainability Commission**  
**APPLICATION**  
**Student Ex Officio Commissioner**

Name Welch Jeremy A.B.  
Last First MI

Address [REDACTED]  
Street City State Zip

Telephone HM [REDACTED] CELL [REDACTED]

E-Mail [REDACTED]

What school do you currently attend? Glendale Community College

Address 1500 North Verdugo Road Glendale, California 91208

Phone 818-240-1000 Contact GCC Office

What school will you attend this Fall? Glendale Community College (GCC)

List specific subjects studied applicable to this position

In order from most recent to least:

- Intern in Biological Sciences (Biol. 50)
- Human Impact On The Environment (Geog. 106)
- Physical Geology (Geol. 101)
- Physical Geology Lab (Geol. 111)
- Physical Geography Lab (Geog. 111)
- Physical Geography (Geog. 101)
- Cultural Geography (Geog. 102)
- Marine Biology (Biol. 125)
- Evolution (Biol. 123)
- Introduction To World Politics (Pol. S. 103)
- AP Government and Politics US
- AP Environmental Science

Community Service, Awards, Clubs (attach additional sheet if necessary)

Community Service/Volunteer work

- Resource for GCC's Environment and Sustainability Governance Committee- March 2023 - Current
- GCC Community Garden- February 2023 - Current
- Poll Worker on election day- November 09, 2018
- Volunteer at Temple Sinai of Glendale- September 2014 - 2019

Clubs

- GCC Geography Club Treasurer- September 2022 - Current
- IRC(International Rescue Committee) Club Vice-President- October 2017 - 2019
- Glendale Temple Youth Vice-President- March 2016 - 2019
- Boy Scouts of America/Cub Scouts- March 2011 - 2019

#### Awards

- Certificate of Achievement (for participation in GCC's 2023 Student Research Symposium) - May 15, 2023
- C.E. Stirdivant Memorial Scholarship (awarded to active students pursuing degrees in the environmental sciences) - May 3, 2023
- Eagle Scout- May 23, 2019
- AP Scholar Award- July 03, 2019
- 50-Miler Award (awarded by BSA for completing a 50 miles hiked/canoed/biked and 10 hours of community service)- August 21, 2018
- AP with WE Service Recognition- July 07, 2018

Please attach a **250 to 500-word Statement of Interest and Purpose** explaining your interest in the Sustainability Commission, your potential contributions, and your vision for Glendale's environmental future. Please also attach **two letters of recommendation**.

**APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 12:00 MIDNIGHT, ON JUNE 4, 2023 - VIA EMAIL to [sustainability@glendaleca.gov](mailto:sustainability@glendaleca.gov)**

*Please note that candidate interviews will be held virtually in June. Selected candidates will announced at the July 6, 2023 Sustainability Commission meeting.*

For more information, please visit <https://www.glendaleca.gov/government/departments/city-clerk/boards-and-commissions/sustainability-commission> or call David Jones at (818) 548-3351.

## Statement of Interest and Purpose

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June 1st, 2023

**Jeremy Welch**  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

As a resident of Glendale and someone who intends to spend their life learning about humans' role on the landscapes we live in, I am deeply passionate about the environment and the future of our city. I am thrilled to have an opportunity to learn more about how decisions get made in my local government by joining the Sustainability Commission. I firmly believe that sustainability is the necessary approach to ensure the future of our community and all others.

My passion for environmental issues began from watching PBS Nature as a child and continued through to my teenage years as I rose the ranks in Boy Scouts all the way to Eagle. Learning about leadership, wilderness, and community. Now, I am pursuing a degree In Geography and Natural Studies at Glendale Community College. This has equipped me with a very solid understanding of ecological systems, human activities, and sustainable development. Additionally, this semester I have been working to rebuild Glendale Community College's garden, which fell into disrepair during the pandemic. While It has been a slow process, that time has allowed me to gain a fuller understanding of food systems and community building as I am attempting to turn it into a place where students and community members can learn about horticulture and California native plants. Through this project, I was also asked to be a Resource for GCC's Environment and Sustainability Governance Committee to aid them in making decisions that are in line with sustainable practices.

If granted the opportunity to serve on the Sustainability Commission, I would be able to bring a wide range of knowledge about sustainability, biology, and geography. My substantial background in these areas would be valuable in analyzing the city's sustainability practices and working to make improvements. I am experienced in conducting research and analysis, which would allow me to provide evidence-based recommendations to promote sustainability in Glendale.

When envisioning Glendale's future, I wish to create a connected and green city. I mean that both literally and figuratively. I want a city that is accessible through interconnected public transportation, bike paths, and a mixture of residential and commercial buildings. With renewable energy sources powering our homes and businesses, and green spaces including parks, gardens, and green streets integrated into all parts of the urban landscape; literally turning the city green.

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Those goals are all very broad and complicated but if we can continually and jointly make small steps towards a greener future, I believe it is possible. As a member of the Sustainability Commission, I would actively move towards this ideal.

In conclusion, my academic background, passion for the environment, and interest in the future of my city make me an ideal candidate for the Sustainability Commission. I hope I will be able to contribute my skills, knowledge, and passion to help shape Glendale's future.

Sincerely,

***Jeremy Welch***

May 19, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

Mr. Jeremy Welch has requested that I submit this letter of recommendation to accompany his application to become a Student Commissioner on the Sustainability Commission for the City of Glendale.

Jeremy was a student in the marine biology lecture (Biol 125) and laboratory (Biol 126) courses that I teach at Glendale Community College. Mr. Welch was an excellent student, earning a "A" in both courses with 90.0% (Biol 125) and 98.1% (126; highest grade in the class) of the total possible lecture and laboratory examinations and exercises. Mr. Welch always collaborated with and helped his peers. His laboratory manuals were excellent, detailed and very organized. He showed the flexibility and maturity necessary to work in a laboratory setting. He was also one of the most assertive and enthusiastic participants in the class. Often, he contributed to our discussions and brought up excellent questions or comments. Jeremy also showed the ability to encompass what he has learned in other courses to provide answers to questions within biology.

Because of his success in my classes I recommended Jeremy to participate in our research internship (Biol 50) at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, where he is currently working under the guidance of Dr. Jann Vendetti (Twila Bratcher Endowed Chair in Malacological Research). His research focuses on the identification of several invasive species of slugs recently discovered at the Huntington Gardens using DNA sequencing techniques and electron microscopy.

Jeremy is also one of our animal caretakers at the Biology Division. He collaborates with 5 other students to take care of the live animals, which are used for teaching. His job encompasses the collection and rearing of animals, preparation of exhibits, and the maintenance of equipment and water quality records. Jeremy is an extremely responsible individual, who learns quickly and who I can trust to work on his own once initial guidance has been provided.

In the past 34 years I have been a teacher and research advisor for a very diverse group of students. I have been a full-time faculty member at Glendale College since 1996, but my teaching experience also includes upper and lower division courses at the University of Southern California, The Ocean Institute (Dana Point), and El Camino College. During these years as a teacher and as a researcher at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County and the University of Southern California, I have learned to recognize some of the qualities that are necessary for success in demanding programs. Jeremy Welch, without a doubt, meets these qualifications. Jeremy is an outstanding young scholar, who understands the demands and responsibilities associated with participation in the Sustainability Commission. Jeremy's work to rebuild our College's Community Garden exemplifies his commitment to sustainability. His excellent academic record (particularly in Geography and Biology) is evidence that he has already built a strong background about sustainability, the ecological interactions between humans and the environment, and their effect on biodiversity. It is a great pleasure to write a letter of recommendation for Jeremy and I am sure that you will not be disappointed with his performance if he is selected as a Student Commissioner.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding Jeremy's application.

Sincerely,



**F. Javier Gago, Ph.D.**

Professor of Biology and Co-Director, Baja California Field Studies Program, Glendale College  
Research Associate, Section of Vertebrates (Ichthyology), Natural History Museum of LA County

**E-mail:** [fgago@glendale.edu](mailto:fgago@glendale.edu) **Telephone:** 818/240-1000 x5369

**Superintendent/President** Dr. Ryan Cornner

**Board of Trustees** Dr. Sevan Benlian • Yvette Vartanian Davis • Dr. Armine Hacopian • Desirée Portillo Rabinov • Ann H. Ransford



Thursday, June 1, 2023

To Whom It May Concern,

Simply put, Jeremy Welch is one of the most determined and knowledgeable *Geography and Environment* students I have had the pleasure of teaching at Glendale Community College. He is hard-working, personable, and a good communicator. More importantly, he is committed to solving environmental problems. I also find his demeanor to be both polite and straightforward. This makes it easy for me to envisage him contributing in a meaningful way to your committee.

Jeremy has been a student in four of my geography classes over the last couple of years! Currently, Jeremy is easily earning a top grade in my *Human Impact on the Environment* class. The class is a review of how humanity has impacted the natural world over time. Previously, he also excelled in *Introduction to Human Geography*, *Introduction to Physical Geography*, and my *Physical Geography Laboratory* course. He easily earned one of the highest grades in each of these classes based on his outstanding test scores, thoughtful completion of all homework, and passionate research essays. In the physical geography laboratory class, for example, he submitted an excellent field report that included detailed photographs and a discussion of both native and invasive plants in the Verdugo Hills along the Beaudry Trail.

Jeremy's polite demeanor masks a deep interest in environmental issues and ethical concerns about the future challenges we are leaving the next generation. In particular, Jeremy seems concerned about global warming and the many environmental issues caused by our food system but he is well-versed in the broad spectrum of sustainability issues. In addition to his work in geography, Jeremy has completed coursework in biology, evolution, political science, and environmental science. It is my understanding that he is also an Eagle Scout and has been involved as a volunteer in his local community on issues ranging from refugee resettlement to youth education.

Jeremy is well on his way to completing a true liberal arts education with an emphasis on human impacts on the environment. It's also clear, from his various volunteer work experiences and his coursework that he is very interested in contributing in a meaningful way to his community. I will not be surprised if Jeremy eventually finds a way to become a valued member of a government agency or a non-profit organization using his sharp mind, deep well of knowledge, and genuine concern for the future of our society.

In short, I recommend Jeremy Welch without reservation to be Glendale's student sustainability commissioner. Please contact me if you have any questions about Jeremy or this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael A. Reed".

Michael Reed  
Associate Professor of Geography  
[mreed@glendale.edu](mailto:mreed@glendale.edu)  
818-240-1000 x5460

Superintendent/President Dr. Ryan Cornner

Board of Trustees Dr. Sevan Benlian • Yvette Vartanian Davis • Dr. Armine Hacopian • Desirée Portillo Rabinov • Ann H. Ransford



Sustainability  
**Commission APPLICATION**  
**Student Ex Officio Commissioner**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Agopoglu \_\_\_\_\_ Nadelina \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First MI

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip

Telephone HM \_\_\_\_\_ CELL \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

What school do you currently attend? Rose and Alex Pilibos Armenian School

Address 1615 N Alexandria Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90027

Phone (323) 668-2661 Contact akiureghian@pilibos.org

What school will you attend this Fall? Rose and Alex Pilibos Armenian School

List specific subjects studied applicable to this position

- AP Human Geography
- AP Psychology
- AP Language and Composition
- AP Calculus AB
- AP Biology
- AP Statistics
- AP Environmental Science
- AP Government
- Research Writing
- Debate

Community Service, Awards, Clubs (attach additional sheet if necessary)

- Saving the Sea Club (Initiator)
- Social Justice Club (Initiator)
- Humanitarian Club (Secretary)
- Helping Hands Club (Member)
- Future Leaders of Science Club (Member)
- Junior State of America (Deputy Director of Debate)
  - Best Speaker Award
- Organized a student coalition for Heal the Bay's Nothin' But Sand Beach Cleanup with over 20 attendees
- \$1150 profit from fundraisers directed towards environmental initiatives

- 180 reusable water bottled purchased for the middle school of Rose and Alex Pilibos Armenian School

Please attach a **250 to 500-word Statement of Interest and Purpose** explaining your interest in the Sustainability Commission, your potential contributions, and your vision for Glendale's environmental future. Please also attach **two letters of recommendation**.

**APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 5:00 PM ON MAY 15 - VIA EMAIL to**  
[sustainability@glendaleca.gov](mailto:sustainability@glendaleca.gov)

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I am writing with utmost enthusiasm to express my fervent interest in assuming a pivotal role within the esteemed Sustainability Commission, specifically as a leader of the distinguished Saving the Sea program. This esteemed position not only presents a singular opportunity to contribute to the environmental trajectory of Glendale but also enables me to channel my unwavering dedication, exemplary leadership acumen, and profound passion for environmental conservation towards effecting meaningful change.

As a leader of the Saving the Sea program, my foremost objective resides in mobilizing individuals and the broader public to undertake resolute action in addressing the pressing environmental challenges, most notably the pernicious ubiquity of plastic waste permeating our oceans. Our program is unequivocally committed to fostering awareness, actively participating in sea-saving activities, prominently including beach cleanups, and promulgating sustainable practices within the esteemed confines of our school community. If selected, I wish to extend these objectives to a much wider scale.

One goal I would like to implement as a potential part of the sustainability commission is the meticulous implementation of specialized recycling receptacles in each classroom. While extant recycling bins may already be scattered throughout campuses, it has become unequivocally evident that a substantial proportion of students are regrettably remiss in adhering to proper utilization protocols, thereby engendering contamination and exacerbating the ignoble predicament of improper waste disposal. By introducing dedicated recycling bins, accompanied by comprehensive educational initiatives elucidating their optimal utilization, we can effectuate a seismic increase in recycling rates while concurrently mitigating the injurious impact of landfills. Additionally, we aspire to periodically collect these recyclables, directing the generated funds towards charitable organizations that directly contribute to our environmental future.

In consonance with our steadfast commitment to the cause, our Saving the Sea program espouses unwavering dedication to organizing synergistic beach cleanups in symbiotic collaboration with prominent environmental organizations. These multifaceted joint endeavors allow us to tangibly contribute towards ameliorating the pervasive dilemma of oceanic pollution while simultaneously inculcating a sense of urgency and mindfulness with regard to the preservation of our invaluable marine ecosystems. By actively participating in these beach cleanups, we not only convey an indomitable resolve in safeguarding our environment but also catalyze a ripple effect, engendering fervent participation and engrossment in our noble cause. If selected, I aim to implement these ideas into the sustainability commission in order to maximize joint efforts in preserving our environment.

I am resolute in my determination to catalyze transformative change and shape Glendale's environmental future. By cultivating widespread awareness, implementing efficacious recycling strategies, orchestrating impactful beach cleanups, and captivating students through engrossing presentations, my overarching objective is to engender a profound sense of environmental stewardship within our community. Through unwavering collaboration with fellow commission members, esteemed local organizations, and the broader populace, we can forge a unified front, propelling Glendale towards a future imbued with sustainability and ecological harmony. Together, let us weave a tapestry of conscientious action, heralding a vibrant and resilient world for our precious seas and generations to come.

Sustainability Commission c/o  
Management Services  
613 E. Broadway, Suite 200  
Glendale, CA 91206  
818-548-4844

Dear Sustainability Commission,

I am writing this letter of recommendation on behalf of Nadelina, a remarkable student from Rose and Alex Pilibos Armenian School who is applying for the position of Ex Officio Commissioner in the Sustainability Commission. As the Math and Science Department Chair at Rose and Alex Pilibos Armenian School, I have had the privilege of closely observing Nadelina's exceptional dedication, leadership skills, and passion for environmental sustainability.

In the realm of academics, Nadelina has consistently demonstrated outstanding proficiency in both mathematics and science. Her aptitude for analytical thinking, problem-solving, and critical reasoning is truly commendable. Throughout her high school years, Nadelina has consistently achieved top grades in advanced math and science courses, reflecting her strong intellectual curiosity and passion for the subjects.

Beyond her academic achievements, Nadelina has actively engaged in extracurricular activities that promote environmental awareness and sustainability. As initiator of our school's Saving The Sea club, Nadelina has contributed significantly to various initiatives aimed at reducing waste, conserving energy, and fostering sustainable practices within our school community. She has led several environmental awareness campaigns, organized recycling drives, and collaborated with local organizations to promote sustainability efforts in our town.

What truly sets Nadelina apart is her innate ability to inspire and mobilize her peers. They possess exceptional leadership skills, consistently demonstrating a knack for bringing people together and motivating them towards a common goal. Nadelina has effectively organized and led student-led projects, such as the widespread implementation of reusable water bottles and organizing a student-led beach cleanup. Her natural ability to communicate effectively, listen attentively, and collaborate seamlessly has earned them the respect and admiration of both students and faculty members alike.

Furthermore, Nadelina is a highly responsible and reliable individual. They have demonstrated exceptional organizational skills and a strong work ethic, ensuring the successful execution of various projects and initiatives. Nadelina possesses a remarkable level of maturity and demonstrates an unwavering commitment to her responsibilities, making her an ideal candidate for the Ex Officio Commissioner position.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly recommend Nadelina for the position of Ex Officio Commissioner in the Sustainability Commission. Her exceptional academic performance, dedication to environmental sustainability, leadership abilities, and responsible nature make

them an outstanding candidate. I have no doubt that Nadelina will make significant contributions to the commission and inspire positive change within our community.

Thank you for considering her application. I am confident that Nadelina will excel in this role and continue to make a meaningful impact on sustainability initiatives.

Sincerely,  
Arpi Sahakian  
Mathematics and Science Department Chair  
Rose and Alex Pilibos Armenian School  
1615 N Alexandria Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90027

Sustainability Commission c/o  
Management Services  
613 E. Broadway, Suite 200  
Glendale, CA 91206  
818-548-4844

Dear Sustainability Commission,

I am delighted to provide this letter of recommendation on behalf of Nadelina, an exemplary student from Rose and Alex Pilibos Armenian School, who is seeking the esteemed position of Ex Officio Commissioner in the Sustainability Commission. As the esteemed Social Studies Department Chair at Rose and Alex Pilibos Armenian School, I have had the distinct pleasure of witnessing Nadelina's exceptional dedication to sustainability, alongside her remarkable leadership acumen and unwavering commitment to effecting positive change.

Within the academic sphere, Nadelina consistently exhibits a profound comprehension and profound reverence for social and environmental issues. Her active engagement in social studies courses is marked by her perceptive contributions to classroom discussions, as well as her adeptness in forging connections between historical events and the pressing global challenges of our time. Nadelina's astute grasp of the intricate facets of sustainability, coupled with an unwavering recognition of its interdisciplinary nature, makes her a standout candidate.

Beyond her scholastic achievements, Nadelina consistently demonstrates an ardent passion for sustainability and environmental stewardship. Her proactive involvement in extracurricular activities centered on promoting sustainable practices and raising awareness of environmental concerns is truly commendable. As an invaluable initiator of our school's esteemed Saving the Sea club, Nadelina has been instrumental in spearheading initiatives aimed at waste reduction and the propagation of sustainable living practices among students and faculty alike.

Nadelina has demonstrated an exceptional ability to galvanize and inspire her peers through her charismatic leadership style. Nadelina has taken the initiative to organize and execute educational workshops for our middle school and impactful awareness campaigns, forging collaborations with local environmental organizations and community members. Her adeptness in fostering meaningful dialogues and encouraging active participation has resulted in a burgeoning interest in sustainability issues within our esteemed student body.

Furthermore, Nadelina exhibits superb communication skills, both in written and oral form. She possesses a remarkable ability to convey intricate concepts and ideas with clarity and conciseness, making her an impactful advocate for sustainability. Nadelina's delivery of impactful presentations to diverse audiences of students and faculty has played an integral role in fostering a heightened understanding of environmental challenges and the significance of sustainable practices.

Nadelina's unwavering sense of responsibility and reliability is truly exemplary. She consistently demonstrates impeccable time management skills, a strong work ethic, and an unwavering dedication to fulfilling her commitments. Her ability to harmoniously balance her academic responsibilities with her participation in extracurricular endeavors serves as a testament to her exceptional organizational aptitude and her steadfast commitment to making a meaningful difference.

In conclusion, it is with utmost enthusiasm that I wholeheartedly endorse Nadelina for the esteemed role of Ex Officio Commissioner in the Sustainability Commission. Her deep-rooted passion for sustainability, remarkable leadership abilities, and exceptional aptitude for engaging and inspiring others undeniably position her as an exemplary candidate. I possess unwavering confidence that Nadelina will bring boundless enthusiasm, unwavering dedication, and innovative ideas to the commission, tirelessly striving to advance sustainable practices within our esteemed school and wider community.

I am steadfast in my belief that she will flourish in this role, fostering significant advancements in sustainability initiatives.

Sincerely,  
Oshin Baboomi  
Social Studies Department Chair  
Rose and Alex Pilibos Armenian School  
1615 N Alexandria Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90027



## Sustainability Commission

### APPLICATION

#### Student Ex Officio Commissioner

Name Sabounjian Natalie J  
Last First MI

Address [REDACTED]  
Street City State Zip

Telephone CELL [REDACTED]

E-Mail [REDACTED]

What school do you currently attend? Clark Magnet High School

Address 4747 New York Ave, Glendale, CA 91214

Phone (818) 248-8324 Contact Brian A. Landisi, Ed. D fax: (818)  
957-2954

What school will you attend this Fall? Clark Magnet

#### List specific subjects studied applicable to this position

The Living Earth  
Chemistry in the Earth System  
Honors GIS & Remote Sensing  
Mock Trial (Law and Government related)

#### Community Service, Awards, Clubs (attach additional sheet if necessary)

Volunteered for the Solar Discovery Faire, hosted by the Glendale Water & Power Department, and Solar Schoolhouse  
Volunteered for the Youth Leadership Program, under student-run organization called Steam for All  
Member of the WASC Student Committee  
Mock Trial Vice President  
Geopolitics Club Vice President  
Constitutional Rights Foundation Three-time Honorable Mention Award Winner  
Constitutional Rights-Foundation Two-Time MVP Award Winner

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Ever since I could remember I have been passionate about the environment and promoting sustainability. From a young age I would encourage my friends to reduce, reuse, and to recycle. Even my family wasn't safe from my unrelenting efforts, as I would urge them to cut down their time spent in the shower in an effort to preserve water. It has always been a strong belief of mine that taking care of our planet is one of the most important responsibilities that we must carry as human beings. As a society we are constantly evolving and growing, but I hope to ensure that our environment is not simply reduced to an unfortunate bystander who gets caught in the crossfire of said fast-paced development. Through joining this commission I believe that I will only be one step closer to realizing my goals for the future of Glendale with respect to sustainability and building a better, more healthy community for future generations to enjoy.

I have already learned a great deal about our current efforts of attaining more sustainable measures through volunteering at the Solar Discovery Faire, where I had the pleasure of learning more about the use of solar cells and how they could soon play a greater role in reducing our dependence on electricity and other less sustainable energy sources. I'd love to work on any campaigns or initiatives to help raise awareness about the overreliance on fossil fuels as our main source of energy, and encourage more sustainable behaviors within our community. I know that if I work alongside my fellow Student Commissioner and the rest of the Sustainability Commission, I can highlight these issues and programs by doing whatever is necessary, like giving informational lectures at my high school and other elementary or middle schools, or even posting on a social media page to gain more attention.

Another area that highly interests me is the promotion of more sustainable transportation. I think that we need to reduce Glendale's reliance on gas-powered cars and push for more eco-friendly alternatives whenever it is possible. Walking or biking can be supported more in our city by implementing more biking lanes and pedestrian-friendly streets. Even working with local businesses to possibly promote more public transportation options for those who would be more interested in it.

Overall, I am extremely excited at the opportunity of joining this commission and working with other students and members to make our community a more sustainable one. I think that there is a great amount of potential for positive change, and if chosen for this position I would make it my top priority to do my part and make a real difference in our community.

Thank you for your consideration!

To: Glendale Sustainability Commission

Re: Letter of Recommendation for Natalie Sabounjian

June 1, 2023

To whom it may concern:

I have known Natalie since Fall of 2021 as a student in The Living Earth class. She excelled in my class and was one of my best students. In that class, Natalie researched sustainability on many levels. She demonstrated her ability to graph and analyze data, ask research questions, carry out investigations and identify solutions. She gave an excellent presentation investigating whether the Mount Graham red squirrel was resistant or resilient in its habitat that has been plagued with fires and other disturbance events.

This year, Natalie joined my Honors GIS & Remote Sensing class. She has proven to be an outstanding student and has great potential moving forward in the field of GIS. In my class she has used GIS to investigate the health of coral reefs, performed a multidimensional analysis of oxygen levels in Monterey Bay, documented the effects of dams with and without fishways on salmon migration, and mapped the movements of ocean animals using satellite tracking data. She has completed an online course from Esri on spatial analysis and shown how contaminants travel from watersheds to the ocean in stream networks.

Natalie works exceptionally well with others in her team. She is able to focus on the task at hand and get things done in a timely manner. She is often one of the first people to complete an assignment. She turns in high quality work, and has a great work ethic.

If selected as a Student Commissioner, Natalie will bring her versatility, enthusiasm and experience with GIS to help solve environmental issues facing the City of Glendale. Natalie Sabounjian is another top choice for the Student Commissioner position with the City of Glendale Sustainability Commission. Feel free to contact me to discuss her qualifications further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Dominique", with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Dominique Evans-Bye, GISP  
Teacher, Clark Magnet High School  
818-248-8324

To: Glendale Sustainability Commission  
Re: Letter of Recommendation for Natalie Sabounjian

May 30, 2023,

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing this letter on behalf of my student, Natalie Sabounjian. Natalie was in my Honors Pre-Calculus class last year, and she is taking my AP Calculus AB class this year, and I am honored to recommend her for your program.

Clark Magnet High School's population exceeds 1200 students. The number of students qualified to register in the AP Calculus AB class is 80 - the top 20 percent of our student body - and Natalie is among these students. She will be among the select group of students to take Calculus BC next year. In addition to my class, she has also taken AP US History and AP English Language in her junior year, maintaining an A in all subjects. She will also challenge herself in her senior year by taking several other AP courses.

Natalie is a unique student. She is highly motivated, intelligent, kind, enthusiastic, meticulous, driven, and hard-working. She has exceptional strength in critical and analytical thinking skills that help her succeed in her mathematics classes. Natalie is exceptionally mature, dependable, and responsible. She is an extraordinary individual who has achieved a lot during her high school years. What sets her apart from others is her grace and her maturity. I admire her work ethic, kindness, and sense of responsibility for her academic success.

Natalie is involved in many extracurricular activities. She is currently the vice president of the Geopolitics Club and Mock Trial Club. Not only is she involved on campus, but she also works hard off campus in organizations such as STEAM for All, which I am the supervisor of at our school chapter. With our most recent event being just two weeks ago.

Natalie has an undeniable talent and hobbies such as art, writing, reading, solving puzzles, and communicating effectively.

Natalie's characteristics and her personality traits will help her achieve her goals. I recommend Natalie without any hesitation and with at most enthusiasm to be a Student Commissioner. Furthermore, given the opportunity, she will be a great addition to any institution.

Sincerely,  
Violet Mardirosian, Math Teacher, National Board Certified,  
Clark High School, Magnet School



**Sustainability Commission**  
**APPLICATION**  
**Student Ex Officio Commissioner**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First MI  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip  
Telephone HM \_\_\_\_\_ CELL \_\_\_\_\_ E-  
Mail \_\_\_\_\_  
What school do you currently attend? Rose & Alex Pilibos Armenian School  
Address 1615 N Alexandria Avenue  
Phone (323) 668-2661 Contact akiureghian@pilibos.org

What school will you attend this Fall? Rose & Alex Pilibos Armenian School

List specific subjects studied applicable to this position

AP Environmental Science	AP Calculus AB	AP Human Geography	AP Computer Science Principles
AP Biology	AP English Language	AP Psychology	Speech & Debate
AP US Government	AP Literature	AP Macroeconomics	Research Writing
AP Statistics	AP US History	AP World History	LAW 003-Civil Rights And The Law
			(college course; 3 units)

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**Attached on a separate sheet.**

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For more information, please visit <https://www.glendaleca.gov/government/departments/city-clerk/boards-and-commissions/sustainability-commission> or call David Jones at (818) 548-3351.

I am writing to express my strong interest in serving as an Ex Officio Student Commissioner for the Sustainability Commission in Glendale. As a passionate advocate for environmental sustainability, I am dedicated to making a positive impact and shaping Glendale's environmental future.

I believe the youth plays an essential role in shaping sustainable policies and practices. As an active Glendale citizen and founder of the Saving the Sea Program, I have demonstrated my commitment to sustainability and leadership capabilities. With my academic background in rigorous and relevant courses such as AP Environmental Studies and AP Biology, I possess a solid foundation of knowledge that will be necessary to utilize. In addition, I have been actively involved in many sustainability initiatives on campus, including organizing awareness campaigns to commemorate Earth Day, World Environment Day, and World Pollution Prevention Day. Moreover, as the president of the Saving the Sea Pilibos Chapter, I took the initiative to invest in reusable water bottles made of 100% recycled plastic, providing them to all middle schoolers to promote eco-conscious behaviors.

My vision for Glendale's environmental future is centered around holistic sustainability. I advocate for prioritizing renewable energy sources, optimizing waste management to minimize environmental impact, and nurturing green spaces for community well-being. I desire to see Glendale become a leader in sustainable transportation, which can be accomplished with an expanded network of cycling lanes and public transportation options. Moreover, focusing on environmental education and understanding— which significantly enhances sustainability— will allow individuals to make choices that effectively reduce their ecological footprint. I have witnessed such initiatives' impact through my organization of numerous student-led presentations, particularly during events like Earth Day. Our primary goal during these presentations was to educate students about eco-conscious choices and foster a greater understanding of sustainability. I am committed to integrating sustainability into student life and the campus environment. By making sustainable practices accessible and engaging, we can foster a culture of environmental stewardship beyond campus. Initiatives such as waste reduction campaigns, recycling programs, and promoting sustainable transportation options can make a significant difference in student mindsets.

I am incredibly excited about contributing to the policymaking process and shaping the future of Glendale. As someone who has demonstrated significant interest in legislation through

my pivotal position in the Junior State of America (JSA) and a three-time Mock Trial prosecuting attorney, I am ecstatic to learn more about local government and Glendale's legislative process. I aim to engage with community members, understand their concerns, and work toward solutions prioritizing environmental stewardship and Glendale's well-being.

Ultimately, my deep interest in sustainability, academic knowledge, research skills, demonstrated leadership, and passion for community engagement, make me an ideal candidate for the role of Ex Officio Student Commissioner for the Sustainability Commission. I am ready to dedicate my time, energy, and resources to this position, working towards a greener and more sustainable Glendale.

**Founder of the Saving the Sea Program ([savingthesea.org](http://savingthesea.org)):**

The Saving the Sea state-wide program has a clear and significant objective: to effectively raise awareness among individuals and the broader public about environmental issues, with a particular focus on the vital importance of reducing, reusing, and recycling materials such as plastic, paper, and aluminum, thereby diverting them from landfills. As founder of the program, I have built a chain of high school chapters that participate in various initiatives, including environmentally focused activities like beach cleanups, fostering their involvement in environmental advocacy efforts. My program endeavors to raise awareness by also creating informative presentations and newsletters accessible to a wide audience and by organizing enjoyable group activities that not only promote awareness but also inspire active support for our cause. I also serve as the Saving the Sea - Pilibos Chapter Co-President.

In addition to founding the program itself and leading the Pilibos Chapter as President, I have established a relationship with Heal the Bay, a non-profit organization, and had our members attend their Nothin' But Sand Beach Cleanups, invite a Heal the Bay guest speaker to Pilibos who is an environmental specialist, and currently am organizing a field trip to the Heal the Bay Aquarium for our middle school students.

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**Founder & Chair of Pilibos SEL (Social-Emotional Learning) Committee:**

The purpose of this committee is to help students of all ages to better comprehend their emotions, feel those emotions fully, and demonstrate empathy for others. We have initiated the integration of mental health topics in our middle and high school curriculums, set up Self-Care sessions for middle school students, and set up an anonymous hotline where students can contact our school's SEL specialist with any concerns. Additionally, we work with monthly themes, during which we create videos and presentations to help educate students on stigmatized topics. The SEL Committee also operates as an interest club at Pilibos, for which I serve as Co-President.

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**Junior State of America (JSA) ([jsa.org](http://jsa.org)):**

I applied and was appointed to the Southern California State Cabinet as the Director of Operations. As Director of Operations, I was tasked with coordinating the logistical aspects of all of the state's conventions (Fall State, Winter Congress, and Spring State). With tasks such as coordinating with hotel staff, room and debate assignments, staff assignments, and delegation of work. The director of Operations will coordinate with all of the cabinet to assign a variety of tasks to cabinet members during conventions to keep rooms under control. Additionally, they

will need to be able to think on their feet, as they will need to make quick decisions during the convention to respond to emergencies such as room overcrowding, missing moderators, and logistical tasks. They will also assist in the training of logistic agents for both a virtual and in-person setting.

In addition, I was awarded both Best Moderator at Spring State Convention and Best Speaker at Winter Congress Convention. I was also nominated for Best Statesperson and Matsukawa Leadership Award.

I also hold leadership on the chapter level at the Pilibos JSA Chapter. During my freshman year, I was appointed and served as Deputy Director of Fundraising. During my sophomore year, I served as an Assembly Member. In my junior year, I served as Director of Political Activism, and as a senior, I was appointed as Vice President.

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**ENGin Nonprofit Organization Student Volunteer (Community Service) ([enginprogram.org](http://enginprogram.org)):**

ENGin is a Ukrainian nonprofit that virtually links English-speaking volunteers with Ukrainian citizens who would like to advance their English-speaking skills or learn English for the first time. I have worked over 30 hours as a volunteer working with Ukrainian students who have Beginner and Intermediate skill levels. I have completed many units with my students and undoubtedly assisted them in their journey of learning English.

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**Varsity Row Team (California Yacht Club) ([calyachtclub.com/junior-rowing](http://calyachtclub.com/junior-rowing)):**

Two years apart of the varsity rowing team at California Yacht Club (CYC). I have participated in various races and medaled. I won 2nd place at the Long Beach Presidents Day Regatta, I won 2nd Place at the Long Beach Christmas Regatta, and I made it to the finals at the US Rowing State Championships.

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**ACF Hollywood Covid Response Team Member (Community Service):**

I helped raise funds and collect food and essential supplies, which were delivered to more than 100 needy families in Hollywood.

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**Humanitarian Club Leadership Position (Club Secretary):**

Pilibos Humanitarian Club Secretary. I helped organize initiatives for the club, such as volunteer opportunities for members of the Adopt-A-Block program. We also set up sock and clothing drives and fundraisers.

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**Mock Trial Team:**

I have been a part of Mock Trial since my freshman year and have served as a lead Prosecuting Attorney three times (freshman, sophomore, and junior years) and was awarded Most Valuable Player (MVP) once.

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**Cross Country Varsity Team:**

Three years apart of the Pilibos Varsity Cross Country team. I have participated in various races and competitions for our Liberty League as well as separate invitationals.

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To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of my student, Shant Ispendjian, in my AP English Language and Composition and AP United States History classes.

Being a part of a small private school, I get to see my students grow up here on campus. Even though he is a high school student, I have known Shant since he was in middle school. He has always been a hard worker, outgoing, fair-minded individual. Inside the classroom, Shant takes copious notes, participates, works well with others, and presents himself as a leader. Being one of my top students this year, students look up to Shant for help and guidance when needed. His writing skills are amazing, especially because he has the ability to critically think and analyze any text or problem that he is presented with. Outside the classroom, Shant is involved in various school clubs and organizations, including the Junior State of America (JSA), where he has flourished as a public speaker and leader among his peers. He also has been rowing since he was in middle school, and for the past several years, his team has made it to the state tournament.

Shant is able to maintain a high GPA while balancing his rigorous academic schedule, which includes five AP classes, along with his various extracurricular activities. This type of combined leadership and dedication is rare in a student.

I wholeheartedly recommend Shant for your program. I believe that Shant has the ability to not only thrive in any environment but also to be very successful.

Sincerely,

**Mashelle Kirkman**

Curriculum Coordinator

English Department Chair

[mkirkman@pilibos.org](mailto:mkirkman@pilibos.org)

To Whom It May Concern:

I am Shant Ispendjian's high school assistant principal at Rose & Alex Pilibos Armenian School. I have known Shant for a few years now. He is a passionate scholar who has been dedicated to his academics. Since the start of high school, Shant has taken advantage of all the demanding coursework offered and excelled in every subject. He is a self-motivated, independent young man who has always made academics a top priority. Excelling in just about every AP course we have offered. He has taken a wide range of Advanced Placement courses at our school.

As a scholar, he has a responsible attitude and works with eagerness and enthusiasm to achieve excellence. He interacts and works effectively with his classmates. As his 10th-grade AP Psychology teacher, Shant regularly participated in class discussions, always sharing his thoughts and views about the subject matter. He has shown his utmost respect to the class and his classmates. Besides knowing Shant as a student, I had the privilege of coaching him for the past three years. As his Cross Country coach, I have noticed his commitment and his willingness to work hard. He is a dedicated scholar-athlete who leads by example to his peers and younger teammates.

Shant is an active member of our school community. He is the Co-President of the "Saving the Sea Club," one of the active student-run clubs on campus. Throughout the year, the club organized a variety of different events (Heal the Bay Guest Speaker, Interactive Assembly in honor of Earth Day). In addition, he was part of the club's fundraising projects. Shant demonstrates a responsible and enthusiastic attitude toward his academics and extracurriculars.

Shant will be a great candidate as a Student Commissioner for the City of Glendale Sustainability Commission. He is continuously searching for opportunities to learn and grow. He would make a valuable contribution to the commission.

I offer nothing but my highest recommendation for Shant Ispendjian.

Sincerely,

**Sevan Shirikian, Ed.D**

Middle and High School Assistant Principal

[sshirikian@pilibos.org](mailto:sshirikian@pilibos.org)

Dear Commission Members,

As a passionate and driven member of our community, I'm excited to formally express my interest in becoming a Student Commissioner on the Glendale Sustainability Commission.

Obtaining this position would afford me a wonderful opportunity to pursue my interest in public policy while making a meaningful difference here in the Jewel City. Glendale has always been home to me and I consider myself blessed to have grown up in such a clean and beautiful place. I am inspired by the goals of this commission and would love to be involved in ensuring that significant strides are made towards a more sustainable future. If accepted to this position, it is my intention to work hard at promoting sustainable practices through encouraging education and outreach. I further look forward to bringing new ideas to the table that take into consideration the ways in which we can make sustainability more accessible to our schools, businesses, and residents.

I am confident that my passion, skills, and experience make me an ideal candidate for this position, and I am eager to contribute to a greener future. Taking upper division sustainability coursework recently at California State University, Northridge has helped to expand my awareness not only of the challenges that we face but also of the many opportunities there are to make a difference. It is my current plan to apply for graduate public policy programs here in Southern California this coming year. There would be no better preparation for me than to actually gain hands-on experience in one of the most crucial areas of local government. While I have worked on a variety of local campaigns, being able to make contributions from within local government in a collaborative setting would be a perfect match with my skillset and interests. Door-knocking during those campaigns, along with long walks during the pandemic, provided me with an intimate knowledge of our city's natural beauty. My experience volunteering and working at the Glendale Community College Food Pantry last year also brought me closer to my neighbors within the community and the variety of concerns that they shared on issues relating to our city. If accepted, I look forward to using my knowledge and passion for making Glendale a better place while working with a highly-motivated group of individuals that share a similar interest in community service and organization. I greatly look forward to hearing back on my application and am enthusiastic about the prospect of helping contribute to the wellbeing of our city.

Thanks,

Thomas Shay

Glendale Sustainability Commission  
613 E. Broadway, Ste. 200  
Glendale, CA 91206

May 12, 2023

Dear Commission Members:

I am writing to offer my enthusiastic recommendation for Thomas Shay to become an Ex Officio Student Member of the Glendale Sustainability Commission. Thomas has worked with me this semester as a curatorial intern at the Autry Museum through his history coursework at California State University, Northridge.

Thomas is a very intelligent, hard-working student and colleague. He has completed research for upcoming exhibitions on subjects as diverse as 18th century Spanish California history, modern Native American musical recording artists, and historical guitars. He has a good sense for synthesizing his research into reliable and clearly written summaries.

He has also gotten to experience the institutional politics in which a museum must balance the interests of a wide range of stakeholders, working diplomatically both inside and outside the museum. This will provide useful background for the needs of the Sustainability Commission, which no doubt must respectfully bring together perspectives from across the City of Glendale. I believe Thomas's kind nature and sense of proportion will make him an excellent fit for this sort of political work.

Environmental sustainability is the single largest challenge we face as a community, nation, and world. At the Autry we have focused on this subject especially at a local and state level through our exhibitions *Investigating Griffith Park* and *Human Nature*, the latter of which shares Native Californian perspectives on environmental challenges. It is young people like Thomas who give me hope that we can meet these problems with practical yet passionate solutions, and I hope you will agree with me that he will make excellent contributions to Glendale's own efforts to become more sustainable.

Please do not hesitate to email or call me if you have any questions.

Best regards,



Josh Garrett-Davis, PhD  
Gamble Curator of Western History, Popular Culture, and Firearms  
[jgarrett-davis@theautry.org](mailto:jgarrett-davis@theautry.org) ; 323-495-4378

May 14, 2023

Dear Commission Members:

I am writing this letter in support of Thomas Shay's application to be an Ex Officio Student Member of the Glendale Sustainability Commission. I supervised Thomas this semester in CSUN's Judicial Internship Program, and I think he would be an excellent choice for the Commission.

Thomas was selected to participate in CSUN's Judicial Internship Program this semester via a competitive application process. Students attend court at the Van Nuys courthouse on a weekly basis, observing criminal, civil, and family court proceedings. They are also mentored by numerous judges throughout the semester. As a result, it is critical that students who are chosen to participate are *mature and responsible*, as there are strict rules that apply to the internship. Students are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times, as they are representing not only themselves, but CSUN as an institution (and preserving the integrity of the program for future students).

Thomas was an exemplary intern. He followed all of the rules of the internship and treated the opportunity with the utmost seriousness and respect. His written work was excellent, and was reflective of a student who both *thinks and cares deeply* about matters related to our court system in general, including our criminal justice system.

In addition, in all of Thomas's interactions with me and in my observations of his interactions with his classmates, he was respectful and conducted himself professionally. As a former attorney, these personal qualities are very important to me, as they indicate that the student is ready to take on the challenges of the professional world after graduation. I have also spoken with Thomas outside of class, and I know that he is genuinely interested in public policy, and in making a difference in his community. He intends in the near future to pursue a master's degree in public policy. If he had the opportunity to serve as the Student Member of the Commission, that real world experience would be invaluable, and would go hand-in-hand with his future academic training.

In sum, Thomas is intellectually curious, dedicated, serious, and cares about his community. *He is the kind of student whom I would hire* if I were in a position of authority in an organization or government agency.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions or need more information.

Sincerely,



Leigh A. Bradberry, Ph.D., J.D.  
Professor of Political Science  
California State University, Northridge  
leigh.bradberry@csun.edu



**Sustainability Commission**  
**APPLICATION**  
**Student Ex Officio Commissioner**

Name Shay Thomas C.  
Last First MI

Address [REDACTED]  
Street City State Zip

Telephone HM (N/A) [REDACTED] CELL [REDACTED]

E-Mail [REDACTED]

What school do you currently attend? California State University, Northridge

Address 18111 Nordhoff St, Northridge, CA 91330

Phone (818) 677-1200 Contact <https://www.csun.edu/contact>

What school will you attend this Fall? California State University, Northridge

List specific subjects studied applicable to this position

- Upper Division Sustainability classes at California State University, Northridge
- Extensive coursework in political science, business, and economics
- Extensive coursework in earth and life science both at a lower and upper division level

Community Service, Awards, Clubs (attach additional sheet if necessary)

- 2022 Glendale Community College Alpha Gamma Sigma Scholarship Recipient
- Extensive club involvement both at CSUN and GCC, with the GCC Scholars Program being of note as community service-oriented organization
- Volunteer at the GCC Food Pantry and on 5+ local political campaigns

Please attach a **250 to 500-word Statement of Interest and Purpose** explaining your interest in the Sustainability Commission, your potential contributions, and your vision for Glendale's environmental future. Please also attach **two letters of recommendation**.

**APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 5:00 PM ON MAY 15 - VIA EMAIL to**  
[sustainability@glendaleca.gov](mailto:sustainability@glendaleca.gov)

*Please note that candidate interviews will be held virtually in June. Selected candidates will announced at the July 6, 2023 Sustainability Commission meeting.*

For more information, please visit <https://www.glendaleca.gov/government/departments/city-clerk/boards-and-commissions/sustainability-commission> or call David Jones at (818) 548-3351.

# THOMAS SHAY

Address · Phone

## EDUCATION

**AUGUST 2022 – PRESENT**

**CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, NORTHRIDGE,** HISTORY

Transfer student and rising senior. 4.0 GPA through all coursework so far with plans to graduate half a year early. Dean's list in all semesters.

- Participated in the Judicial Internship Program. Selected via a competitive application process. Observed jury selection, preliminary hearings, motions, and trials in criminal, civil, and family law courtrooms for 123 hours over the course of the semester. Met periodically with judges who participated in the internship to discuss law and legal procedures. Learned proper courtroom procedures and appropriate behavior. Wrote detailed logs for the internship coordinator with analysis of cases I observed. Met with internship coordinator and the other interns to discuss cases and our internship experience.

**AUGUST 2020 – JUNE 2022**

**GLENDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE,** HISTORY, BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION, SOCIAL SCIENCES

Completed three Associate degrees with straight As. Participated in the Scholars Program, Red Cross Club and Alpha Gamma Sigma Honors Societies. Dean's List in all semesters and 2022 AGS Scholarship Recipient. Recognized for extensive volunteer work at on-campus food pantry.

## EXPERIENCE

**JANUARY 2023 – MAY 2023**

**CURATORIAL INTERN,** AUTRY MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN WEST

- Worked alongside renowned author Dr. Josh Garrett-Davis in researching an upcoming exhibition on California during the time of the American Revolution. Worked directly with historical databases, museum collections, and academic journals for various projects.
- Sat in on administrative meetings while assisting curators with their day-to-day tasks. Gained experience facilitating artifact accession. Assisted with the logistics of exhibition planning and construction while also conducting research for an upcoming book on Native American musicology.

**AUGUST 2022 – NOVEMBER 2022**

**CAMPAIGN STAFF,** RICK CARUSO FOR MAYOR

- Gained hands-on experience in political campaigning, including volunteer and intern coordination, research and analysis, database maintenance, fact-checking, content editing, and voter outreach.
- Primarily involved in voter outreach. Responsible for making thousands of phone calls and tens of thousands of texts over the course of the campaign. Gained experience on the back-end of voter database systems and managed phonebanks over the course of a highly-competitive race.





## **STRENGTHS**

- Reading Comprehension
- Policy Research and Analysis
- Historical Research
- Communication
- Quick And Eager To Learn
- Academic writing

## **VOLUNTEERING**

- Extensive volunteering in local Glendale elections for city council and the school board
- Volunteer Intern on Greg Krikorian's 2022 City Clerk campaign
- Dedicated large amounts of time and resources the Glendale College Food Pantry
- Accepted to a volunteer internship over the summer with Neighborhood Legal Services Of Los Angeles County
- Yearly volunteering assisting with event management at the Long Beach Grand Prix



## Sustainability Commission

### APPLICATION

#### Student Ex Officio Commissioner

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First MI

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip

Telephone HM (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ CELL \_\_\_\_\_ E-

Mail \_\_\_\_\_

What school do you currently attend? Glendale Community College

Address 1500 N Verdugo Rd, Glendale, CA 91208

Phone 818-240-1000 Contact \_\_\_\_\_

What school will you attend this Fall? Glendale Community College

#### List specific subjects studied applicable to this position

- Introduction to United States and California Government and Politics
- Modern Comparative Governments
- Introduction To World Politics
- Public Speaking

#### Community Service, Awards, Clubs (attach additional sheet if necessary)

- Armenian Student Association Club of GCC
- Pre-Law Club of GCC

Please attach a **250 to 500-word Statement of Interest and Purpose** explaining your interest in the Sustainability Commission, your potential contributions, and your vision for Glendale's environmental future. Please also attach **two letters of recommendation**.

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## Statement of Interest and Purpose

Glendale has been my home for more than a decade, and making sure that its beauty continues for decades is vital to me. I would love to become a student commissioner and join the sustainability commission since I can use my voice to spread the value of the environment and how helping in any way will take the Glendale community in the right direction. The alarming news of climate change and how our Earth is suffering the consequences of it every second only pushes me more to get involved and actively help change Glendale's sustainability status to something greater. I can bring on many different skill sets that would be useful for this position. I know how to be a leader and make sure that things are going smoothly and that things are getting done. I also know how to be a team player, and make sure to listen to other people's ideas and implement them. I am a dedicated person that will make sure the task gets done no matter how difficult it may be to get there. I make sure to work promptly and stay productive. I can take criticism and feedback and use it as a tool to grow. This opportunity gives me the chance to step up and represent not only myself but others that also want to see Glendale's environment in a more healthy state. By working locally, I will have the chance to connect with many people and ensure them that Glendale is moving on the right path. Within Glendale, I want to help increase clean air, lessen pollution, and decrease drought. I am ready to repair Glendale by staying involved and using my voice to spread awareness of this issue and implement ways to fix it.

June 2, 2023

To whom it may concern,

I would like to recommend Celia Hovsepien for the position of student commissioner on the Sustainability Commission. I have had the pleasure of having Celia in two of my political science classes this academic year. She is a strong student, earning one of the top grades in my American Government course in the fall and is on track to do the same this spring in my World Politics course. During this past year, I have seen her strong academic performance but I have also had the chance to watch her interact with her classmates. She is well respected by her peers and is always willing to provide her opinion during discussions, even when she is taking an unorthodox position on an issue. She is a quiet leader that students look to during group assignments or, in both classes, during simulations that require strategy and initiative.

Celia has long been interested in being an active member of her community, volunteering and taking part when given the chance to do so. She is a hard worker in the classroom and beyond it and I am certain that she will take advantage of any opportunity you give her as a student commissioner. I don't make this recommendation lightly. I have served on various committees where students take part and while some students hesitate to participate, others offer important insights from the perspective of a young person and specifically, a student voice. Your commission will be better for having Celia on it because she is smart but able to articulate her views and voice them with a quiet confidence that I admire.

I encourage you to give Celia your fullest consideration for this position and I recommend her without any reservations. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any additional questions you might have.

Sincerely,



Cameron Hastings, PhD  
Professor and Chair- Political Science  
(818)240-1000 x3226

Superintendent/President Dr. Ryan Cornner

Board of Trustees Dr. Sevan Benlian • Yvette Vartanian Davis • Dr. Armine Hacopian • Desirée Portillo Rabinov • Ann H. Ransford

June 2, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

Celia Hovsepian was an intern at Glendale Community College that participated in our Team Internship program – a new work-based learning experience. Interns in the program worked in teams to use design thinking to create solutions for a business partner (Vital Nurse Services) to a challenge that was presented to the teams. As the lead coach for the program, I interacted with Celia every week as the interns participated in various activities as they worked towards a solution to the business challenge. Celia was an invaluable part of her team. She worked well with others and pushed others to expand upon their ideas. She was able to empathize with the customer that the solution was being designed for. As part of this experience, Celia strengthened many skills including teamwork, public presentation, critical thinking, problem solving, and time management. Celia was clearly a leader of her team and worked to keep her team members on task and productive. At the end of the program, Celia, along with her team, presented their solution to our business partner. The representatives from Vital Nurse Services remarked about how well-prepared their team was in their presentation and how innovative and creative their solution was.

In talking with Celia outside of our regular sessions for the Team Internship Program, I learned that she is passionate about protecting the environment. She wants to make a difference and wants to take action to create positive change. She desires an opportunity to have a voice and to make an impact on environmental policy. Celia has a very bright future ahead of her and you would be lucky to have her as a commissioner.

Sincerely,

Michael Davis  
Associate Professor of Mathematics  
Lead Coach of Team Internships

Superintendent/President Dr. Ryan Corner

Board of Trustees Dr. Sevan Benlian • Yvette Vartanian Davis • Dr. Armine Hacopian • Desirée Portillo Rabinov • Ann H. Ransford



**Sustainability Commission  
APPLICATION  
Student Ex Officio Commissioner**

Name Mardirousi Emily  
Last First MI

Address [REDACTED]  
Street City State Zip

Telephone HM [REDACTED] CELL [REDACTED]

E-Mail [REDACTED]

What school do you currently attend? Anderson W. Clark Magnet High School

Address 4747 New York Ave. La Crescenta, CA 91214

Phone (818) 248-8324 Contact Brian A. Landisi

What school will you attend this Fall? Glendale Community College

List specific subjects studied applicable to this position

Subjects applicable to this position are as follows:

- Geology of Disasters
- Honors GIS and Remote Sensing
- Honors Environmental GIS
- Honors Business Fundamentals
- Honors Business Law
- Honors Business Communications
- Business 110: Human Relations in Business
- Geology 101

Community Service, Awards, Clubs (attach additional sheet if necessary) - Attached on following page

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Community Service, Awards, Clubs (attach additional sheet if necessary)

- **Head of Outreach for Glendale's Community Emergency Response Team** (Oct 2022-present)

Glendale's CERT Team focuses on educating community members on stepping up in case of a disaster. CERT members act as trainees to become certified through a 9-unit long hybrid course. Upon completion of the course, CERT members are equipped with emergency preparedness materials and are ready to respond in case of an emergency.

- **My California GIS Mapping Showcase and Competition** (May 2023)

Placed top 3 for "Methane Monitoring Emissions: High-Altitude Balloon Launch and Drone Flight for Gas Leak Detection" storymap.

- **Outstanding Achievement in Business Social Media Marketing** (May 2023)

One of two students receiving an award from Honors Business Social Media Marketing class.

- **National Honors Society** (April 2023)

Received upon demonstrating scholarship, leadership, service, and character.

- **Outstanding Armenian Graduate** (April 2023)

Obtaining a minimum of 3.75 GPA and being of Armenian descent. Recognized by Congressman Adam B. Schiff, Assemblymember Laura Friedman, California State Senate, and Committee for Armenian Students in Public Schools

- **Outstanding Achievement for Ability and Creativity in an Atmospheric Science Exhibit** (April 2023)

Special award granted at Los Angeles County Science & Engineering Fair issued by American Meteorological Society. Project presented was "Investigating Methane Emissions in Local Communities" showcasing our cost-efficient take on methane monitoring in local and industrial communities.

- **Nasa TechRise Student Challenge** (Feb 2023)

Created a grant-winning proof of concept for an effective, cost-efficient monitoring method to analyze methane in residential and commercial areas.

- **Science National Honors Society** (Feb 2023)

Showing overall academic excellence with emphasis on science courses.



## Statement of Interest and Purpose

I want my kids to grow up in a clean Glendale. Being able to play outdoors, free of worry from any air pollution. I want to take pride in my city and be able to tell my children they grew up in a cleaner Glendale than I did. Having spent the past year working with a small group of classmates on a NASA-funded methane monitoring project, we built a functioning payload to monitor methane in industrial and residential areas. Presenting our project at Esri's, Ocean, Weather, and Climate Forum, the LA County Science and Engineering Fair, and the California Science and Engineering Fair taught me the importance of clean air.

Having finished the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) 3-year pathway at GUSD's Clark Magnet High School and tutoring the subject over the summer, I'm proficient in Esri GIS products. The ability to map out and understand hazardous areas gave me insight on the importance of emergency preparedness. In hopes of spreading awareness of emergency preparedness, I accepted the volunteer role as Head of Outreach for Glendale's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). CERT gives community members the confidence to step up in case of an emergency while first responders may be overwhelmed. After being CERT certified in basic first aid and emergency preparedness this April, my goal is to help youth play a more active role in emergency preparedness.

The Sustainability Commission is of strong interest to me because I strive to take a stronger role in the future of Glendale. Being a member would allow me to voice my opinions and aid in upcoming events. Thank you for your consideration.

To: Glendale Sustainability Commission

Re: Letter of Recommendation for Emily Mardirousi

May 25, 2023

To whom it may concern:

I have known Emily since Fall of 2020 as a student in my Geology of Disasters class. Emily is one of the few students who have successfully completed all three courses of my career technical education geographic information systems pathway. In my Geology of Disasters course, Emily mapped risk levels for a number of natural disasters. She evaluated areas at risk of landslides, floods, effects from sea level rise, extreme weather events and fire. She learned how to communicate information from her analysis using story maps and dashboards. She was a top student in this class. In this class, she was able to incorporate real-time data into an interactive dashboard showing what public safety issues were occurring in the city of Redlands. At the end of the course, she was hired by the district to tutor this class over the summer. She helped immensely with troubleshooting technical issues for my students and assisting with instruction.

The next year, Emily joined my Honors GIS & Remote Sensing class. She created an interactive dashboard to illustrate the spread of Covid-19 and furthered her skills in GIS. This year, in my Honors Environmental GIS class, Emily worked with a team to monitor methane emissions both at school and over Aliso Canyon, the site of the 2015 gas leak. She developed a story map on the project that won the California State Mapping competition. She presented her story map along with team at the Esri Ocean, Weather and Climate GIS Forum as a plenary speaker. For this project, Emily took the lead and submitted her team's project to the President's Environmental Youth Award. She also entered the World of 8 Billion with a story map on Redlining in Los Angeles.

If selected as a Student Commissioner, Emily will bring her extensive skill set and creative approach to help solve environmental issues facing the City of Glendale. Without a doubt, Emily Mardirousi is my top choice for the Student Commissioner position with the City of Glendale Sustainability Commission. Feel free to contact me to discuss her qualifications further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Dominique', with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Dominique Evans-Bye, GISP  
Teacher, Clark Magnet High School  
818-248-8324

May 2023

To whom it may concern,

It is my pleasure to write this letter of recommendation for Emily Mardirousi. My name is Shalini Singh, a Career and Technical Education (CTE) teacher at Clark Magnet High School in Glendale, California. I teach Business Foundations and Law (Honors) as well as Business Communications and Social Media Marketing (Honors). Emily has been my student in both classes, as a Junior and a Senior respectively.

Emily has a calm yet impactful personality. She leads by example, naturally motivating her teammates to work cohesively and competently. Her innate communication skills are often displayed in my class during group discussions and presentations. Academic grades aside, she is an engaged student and eager to learn. She is proactive, forward thinking, and works consciously to hone her skills.

Emily's work ethic is regularly reflected in the attention to detail she puts into understanding the subject matter and executing related assignments. She seeks clarifications when needed and promptly rectifies her work based on the feedback received. She is receptive to training and is genuinely interested in learning, regardless of the challenging nature of the subject at hand. This was demonstrated when she brilliantly executed the drafting of a Business Plan. The assignment required students to apply their classroom learning towards creating a comprehensive document about a startup business plan, including financial and marketing plans, a risk analysis, and more.

Emily's business idea was a clothing store focused on environmentally conscious fashion. This is what she wrote - "My business goal would be to make quality clothes more accessible and create a better approach to fast fashion. Our clothes would be made from environmentally safe products and we would donate a portion of our profits to help environments that are struggling due to fashion based pollution." Her Business Plan was not only technically sound, but was a reflection of the kind, caring person that she is.

She has all the qualities of a successful leader - determination, leading by example, perseverance, competency, taking ownership, and more. Emily will be an asset to any organization and worthy of all opportunities. It is my honor to have known her.

Best regards,

Shalini Singh

[ssingh@gusd.net](mailto:ssingh@gusd.net)

818 248 8324

Clark Magnet High School