

**CLA Template Undergraduate and Graduate President's Outstanding Student
 Award
 Nomination Form**

Each academic unit may select BOTH a graduating bachelor's degree and graduate degree student to be honored as the President's Outstanding Student graduate from that academic unit at each commencement ceremony. Nominations for the honor are requested from all faculty and advisors within the academic unit. Other university employees familiar with a particular student may also make a nomination, as long as the nomination guidelines are followed. In addition, students may nominate themselves by completing nomination forms available from their advisors.

TO BE COMPLETED BY NOMINATOR:

Term and Year of Graduation:

☒ I have verified that the student I am nominating is listed on the current graduation list (or previous summer graduation list)

Academic Unit: (check the applicable college/school)

- ☐ College of Community Studies and Public Affairs
- ☒ College of Liberal Arts
- ☐ College of Individualized Studies
- ☐ College of Management
- ☐ College of Nursing and Health Sciences
- ☐ College of Sciences
- ☐ School of Urban Education

Class Standing:

- ☒ Undergraduate---→ Major(s): English
- ☐ Graduate-→ Program and Degree:

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|----------------------|---|--------------------|---------------------|
| Student Name: | Lisa Castillo | | |
| Student ID: | 15273755 | | |
| Address: | 15026 Dunwood Trl Apple Valley, MN 55124 | | |
| Home Phone: | 651-587-9576 | Cell Phone: | 651-587-9576 |



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| Work Phone: | |
| Email Address: | Lisa.castillo@metrostate.edu |

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|--------------------|-----------------|
| Nominator's Name: | Suzanne Nielsen |
| Nominator's Phone: | 612 8508814 |
| Student's Advisor: | Tammy Durrant |

Criteria to be used in determining the outstanding student award may include, but not be limited to, the following criteria. **Each academic unit will determine the relative weighting of these criteria and may stipulate additional criteria to be used in the selection process.** Any additional criteria must be publicized to all members of the academic unit, and to students, before the nominating process. Please address all the criteria below with complete answers.

- 1. Academic Excellence:** As evidenced by grade point average (g.p.a.) while at Metropolitan State and by comments from Metropolitan State faculty.

Lisa Castillo is an English major, who has completed a number of creative writing classes while finishing her B.A. degree at Metro State. She participates in many of the creative writing activities such as working on our literary magazine, *Haute Dish*, and being involved with *Get Lit*, our ongoing monthly workshop for students and alumni. Lisa is an integral contributor to the success of *Haute Dish* over the last two years serving as our literary magazine's web editor and overall promoter.

When Lisa came to Metro she was relearning her commitment to academia, and her first semester challenged her. This is reflected in her overall current GPA (2.78), however her dedication to academia and its demands have become Lisa's lifestyle by exceeding the requirements and working overtime to achieve outstanding grades in her creative writing courses; and Lisa doesn't want to stop the academic train (remember *The Little Engine that Could?*), so we discussed recently her desires to apply for graduate studies at Metro State.

- 2. Community Service:** As evidenced by participation or leadership in humanitarian, civic, social, religious, and educational groups or organizations while a Metropolitan State student.

Lisa's contributions to diversity are ever present in her creative writing where she challenges the reader's moral compass, allowing each of us to become actively involved in the replenishing of humanity. A strong advocate for "finding your voice," Lisa's feedback in workshop situations allows working writers the platform to relish in their many voices.

Lisa's brevity in writing has been highlighted on Lake List with Metro State's screenplay group, and here is a brief synopsis: *Midwest Mexican follows the life of a Chicano activist, soldier, fighter, friend, father and husband's life growing up in a racist, marginalized person of color in the 1940-the 2020's*. In addition, Lisa writes poems and short stories about growing up bi-racial and life of a nomad.

- 3. Academic Innovation in the Educational Program:** As evidenced by use of community resources and creative use of alternative learning strategies (such as

assessments of prior learning, theory seminars, independent studies, internships and CLEP tests), or by outstanding performance in case studies, senior and capstone projects, and various community-based projects while a Metropolitan State student. **Again, Lisa's recognition for her outstanding screenplay, and for her publications of prose and poetry are to be recognized by a single mother of two gifted children. Lisa is strong, and this strength helps her maintain a cohesive routine toward a well-earned undergraduate degree.**

Mid-semester in spring, 2022, Lisa lost her father. She was enrolled in Humor Writing at the time. "When evaluating myself this semester, I really enjoyed the reading of *Ha* by Scott Weems. His book on comedy was in my hand during the darkest times. While sitting in the hospital during the last days of his life, I would read the humorous excerpts to him out loud. He would smile and share some of this book with him. My father and I laughed a lot together. Humor was one of the bonds we had."

Lisa never takes the easy path with any of her academic studies, and her passion runs deep when working with others as a collective.

- 4. Professional Accomplishments:** As evidenced by titles, promotions, awards, and other types of recognition achieved in the workplace, and by participation or leadership in various professional or trade groups or organizations while a Metropolitan State student.

The various responsibilities that Lisa takes on in her daily life have provided her opportunities to lead by example, as she is consistently responsible, always reading, and always willing and available to assist others through the learning process.

A born leader, Lisa instinctively recognizes the importance of introducing various learning styles, thus engaging an array of learners not left behind. Lisa's contributions to Metro State will be felt indefinitely. Lisa shared this: "I feel that this class has guided and instructed me on trusting the craft and how to trust myself as a writer. I feel I have opened my soul for this class."

- 5. Other:** As evidenced by other relevant information, such as personal characteristics, family commitments and future academic plans. **Lisa Castillo loves life; she loves her family; she loves learning; she loves collaborating. Lisa states, "As an adult learner, I took the opportunity to fulfill my own dream of getting my BA in English when I was furloughed during the pandemic. I have exhausted my savings to earn this degree for my family and me. I have taken my loss of family and my personal experiences to write pieces I am so proud of. I have found encouragement and happiness with my professors and my fellow students. My time at Metro State University has been invaluable."**



TO BE COMPLETED BY CHAIR OF NOMINATION REVIEW COMMITTEE:

This student has been designated a

- ☐ Recipient of the President's Outstanding Student Award
- ☐ Finalist for the President's Outstanding Student Award
- ☐ Nominee for the President's Outstanding Student Award

by the Outstanding Student Award Nomination Review Committee.

Signed:

(Chairperson of the President's Outstanding Student Award Nomination Review Committee)

Date: _____