



**CLA 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: Spring, 2024**

x 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  
x  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:**

x  Undergraduate---→ Major(s):  
 Graduate-→ Program and Degree:

<b>Student Name:</b>	<b>Kevin Arriaza</b>		
<b>Student ID:</b>	<b>15737751</b>		
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<b>Nominator's Name:</b>	<b>Suzanne Nielsen</b>
<b>Nominator's Phone:</b>	<b>612 850 8814</b>
<b>Student's Advisor:</b>	<b>Suzanne Nielsen</b>

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.

**1. Academic Excellence:** As evidenced by grade point average (g.p.a.) while at Metropolitan State and by comments from **Metropolitan** State faculty. Thank you for the opportunity to faculty to nominate students for this special recognition. I am nominating two students this semester, from two completely different spectrums.

I am honored to write this nomination for Kevin Arriaza, a creative writing major within the department of WLL. My advising role requires that I sign off on the DARS of each assigned graduating student. Some students stand out for clearly spectacular GPAs, and overall academic excellence. This student's GPA (3.12) does not show the full picture of his accomplishments over his studies at Metro State. Kevin is a first generation college soon-to-be graduate, and I am so proud of him. Kevin states, "I am a first generation college student. I've been going to school full time the whole four years I've been in school while working full time. Actually, now that I think about it, I will be the second person in my family to graduate college. My older sister is the only other person in all of our family to do so. My younger sister came close, but has taken a break to raise her baby. Even though my mom was not fortunate enough to be born a U.S. citizen, I am still proud of her as she got certified as a CMA and now has over five years of working in the medical field. My dad is much more "old school" and I don't think he ever finished high school. He did well for himself though, being a house painter paid well."

His contributions to his major course work in the creative writing program set the tone for his peers to broaden their genre-specific portfolio to include genres that push our comfort zone.

**2. Community Service:** As evidenced by participation or leadership in humanitarian, civic , social, religious, and educational groups or organizations while a **Metropolitan** State student. When I spoke with Kevin about his involvement with community service, he responded by stating, Well I can't say that I've been a part of or a leader in a formal organization, I don't even really know how to become a part of something of that sort. But when we spoke at the mid semester conference last semester, I mentioned that the closest thing I can think of is supporting my brother financially by sending him money while he was on probation. He's a father of four and didn't have stable



housing at times the past four years so I sent him as much money as I could, usually just \$20 for food here and there.

The other thing I can think of is a two-parter. I tried to intern at SPNN for a summer working with minority youths. However, I was not accepted (which I was surprised by as I was not even going to get paid.) However, I then volunteered to help produce a free cable show called The Mary Hansen Show, who's studio was in the same building (unbeknownst to me.) That's about all the help that I've been able to provide while being a student at Metropolitan! I live pretty much pay check to paycheck, lol.

**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.

One of Kevin's strengths in writing is dialogue. He stated this of dialogue: "A strange thing happens when you go to type a dialogue only paper. Your hands reach out to type a scene that you see in your head, but then they stop and float above your keyboard as you sit and contemplate the economic decisions to make in order to cut the unneeded parts of the story out. You have to be clever. Cut out the parts that contain the slightest shred of narration. Allude to the direction a character is facing. Establish time and place. Avoid awkwardness in character action and interaction. And bring it home by securing an emotional catharsis."

**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.

Like many Metro students, Kevin's "spare" time fits into the tip of his pinky finger: barely there. However Kevin made a point of attending Get Lit, an extracurricular writers workshop meeting monthly for three hours. Kevin's participation, although minimal, was greatly appreciated with his contributions with reading events for Haute Dish, Metro's literary journal. His efforts to build community among peers stand out, especially when referring to the importance of smaller classes in creative writing: "Group workshops were a brilliant idea in my estimation. The main advantage to a smaller group workshop is more open air space because there are less people to step on your words. Not only do you get to say more interesting and relevant things, you get to talk more deeply to the writer themselves."

**5. Other:** As evidenced by other relevant information, such as personal characteristics, family commitments and future academic plans.

(I am including this a a sample of an assignment required for 1000 Words or Less: Write a story in 50/200 words)

**Park Trip (200 words)**



We made our way to the big park with the waterfall a little later in the day than we wanted, a fact that we were all silently and angrily aware of. We sat steaming in our seats; from the anger and the heat. One hot hot hot day. *Just gotta make it to the seafood stand*, I thought. *We'll all be ok when we chomp down on that fried fish.*

“Gotta make a stop for gas.” My mom said lifelessly.

“You sure you don’t wanna waste some more time putting on makeup?”

“You know what George-”

“Mom!” My brother shouted

“I hope that this damn car dies in the middle of the street!” My mom shouted  
Now everyone was yelling.

My sister: “Guys, guys, GUYS!”

My other brother: “Called it! I called it back at the house! One more fight in the car!”

“So that I can see the stupid look on your face when it does!” My mother finished

*SCREEECH.*

We came to a dead stop. A momma racoon led her babies across the road. We pulled over to the side and all got out. We kept our distance as we watched them all quietly enter the brush.

**50 Word version.**

Mom had taken too long with her makeup. Dad was searching for the keys. My two brothers and one sister wouldn’t stop screaming.

Now we had taken the screaming into the car.

*SCREEECH.*

We stopped. A momma racoon led her babes across the road and into the brush.

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**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: \_\_\_\_\_