



TACTC Winter Conference

Transforming Lives – January 28, 2015

Description

The TACTC Transforming Lives Awards recognize current or former students whose lives have been transformed by attending a Washington state community or technical college. The TACTC Awards Committee will select five awardees from the nominations submitted by the Washington community and technical colleges.

All nominees will be invited to attend, at TACTC's expense, the TACTC Legislative Contact Conference (January 28, 2015, at the Red Lion Hotel in Olympia), where they will be honored during the Transforming Lives Awards Dinner. Award winners will be the featured speakers and each recipient will receive a \$500 cash award from TACTC.

Every nominee will have his/her story and picture included in an awards booklet that will be shared with legislators and the higher education community.

Awards criteria

Nominations must come from the student's board of trustees and be based on the following criteria:

- The nominee may be either a current or former Washington community or technical college student who has completed or made significant progress toward completing a degree or certificate that has helped him/her prepare for or be successful in their future endeavors.
- The nominee must share a compelling story** in written format (maximum 500 words) about overcoming barriers to achieve higher education goals and how the education and support received at his/her community or technical college was life transforming (e.g. new employment, self-sufficiency, etc.).

Each college will develop its own process for soliciting and selecting student nominations for the award. One student from each college can be nominated by the local board of trustees. Multi-campus districts may have one nominee from each college in the district.

Nominations must include the completed nomination form, the student's statement, a letter of support from the board of trustees outlining why the student's story was selected and a photograph of the student. Materials must be scanned and sent electronically. The student's statement must be in a Word document.

Deadlines:

*Nominations must be received by TACTC by **Monday, November 17, 2014:***

ATTN: Candace Robbecke (crobbecke@sbctc.edu)

Awardees will be notified in early December.

*** Please note: all student stories will be published in the Transforming Lives Booklet. The booklet is widely distributed to Legislators, CTC Stakeholders and the Public. ***



TACTC Winter Conference

Transforming Lives – January 28, 2015

College: Big Bend Community College

Nominee's Name: Lupe Campos

The nominee is a:

- Current Washington community or technical college student
- Former Washington community or technical college student

Nominee's contact information:

Address: _____

Email: camposg@cwu.edu

Phone numbers: please include at least one contact number.

Home: _____

Work: _____

Cell: 509-793-3254

The reason(s) the board selected this nominee was/were: _____

Additional requirements:

- The nominee's complete statement is included. *(Please note, statement will be published in Transforming Lives Booklet.)*
- A letter of support written by the board is included.
- A photograph of the nominee is included.
Photographs should be limited to the head and shoulders with a plain, light background.
- Note:** The college liaison will work with the district office to register awardees / nominees for the awards dinner.

Will the nominee attend the 1/28/15 dinner? *The five awardees are expected to attend the event.*

- Yes No Unknown

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My name is Guadalupe Espiridion Campos; I was born in Guadalajara, Mexico. My mother brought me and my older brother to the United States at the age of one because she was seeking a better life for herself and her children. By the age of 9 I had attended five different schools in three different states making it difficult to create connections among my peers which would later affect me in life.

It all began my freshmen year at Othello High school, when I discovered that I was part of a program that is designed for migrant students. I was not familiar with this program so I investigated and discovered that because my family moved to different locations based on the seasonal jobs available I was then considered a migrant student. To my surprise I also found out that I was an undocumented student. All of this information was new to me and I was not fully aware of the limitations that would be placed in front of me for future opportunities. I went through the rest of my high school years with the uncertainty of not knowing what I would be when I graduated high school. Outside of school I spent my days with my family and helped my mother in the fields during the weekends and summers. I felt the desire to become a part of something that I could cooperate in so I decided to become a member in school activities and this would change my life forever.

By the time I was a senior in high school I was a member of various school organizations and held office responsibilities too. By taking advantage of the opportunities provided I was able to grow as student as well as an active community member and this played a fundamental role in my desire to go to college. Upon graduation I knew that I wanted or needed to attend college to achieve my goals. I wanted to attend Big Bend Community College because it was close to home which would allow me to help support my family and still participate in community events and activities. If there was ever a turning point in my life where I felt like the doors open and I was no longer afraid to hide my status as an undocumented student and pursue my dreams it was at BBCC.

My first year, I joined in all the clubs I could such as; M.E.Ch.A, Phi Theta Kappa, and The Graduation Project. It was through these programs that I was able to learn the most and make the most out of college. A few of the projects that facilitated my learning was a job shadow through The Graduation Project at the Port of Moses Lake, Peer Mentoring as a PAC Leader, and representing minority students. But the most important thing I learned at Big Bend was to believe in myself. I am currently a student at Central Washington University and I will continue to strive for success. Thank you Big Bend Community College for laying a great foundation for my success.

Transforming Lives Award – 2015

Recommendation Letter for Lupe Campos

From: Beth S. Laszlo, Student Success Center Coordinator

Attached please find the documents necessary to nominate Lupe Campos for the 2015 Transforming Lives Award.

I was so honored to be a part of Lupe's experience here at Big Bend Community College. In my first year as a member of the Title V team, I was given the unbelievable opportunity to develop and lead a student program called *The Graduation Project*. The purpose of this year long project was to work with a select group of BBCC students who met financial and credit criteria. Basically, students had to be Pell eligible and in their first year. Lupe submitted his application to be a part of this group and after meeting him I immediately saw the potential that Lupe had in front of him. But, I still didn't know his "story" and was excited to be able to work with him for the year.

Although very quiet and timid, Lupe stood out because of his enthusiasm to tackle growth opportunities available to him. As a part of *The Graduation Project*, students had to complete job shadowing/internship programs each quarter. Because he was interested in Business, I wanted him to be able to have an experience that would really stretch him professionally. The Port of Moses Lake graciously agreed to host Lupe in this position. Carol Gibson, Director of Real Estate at the Port and supervisor for this internship was quite impressed with Lupe. Carol said, "Lupe is very prompt, professionally dressed, polite and always ready to tackle what I have going on. Lupe is incredibly bright and exceptionally intuitive with computers."

Last Spring, Lupe was also a PAC Leader. He participated in the PAC presentation to the Board of Trustees and at an all-faculty meeting spring quarter. Lupe has a smile that brightens any room and brings a wonderful sense of humor to the table as well.

Now to his story.... As you can see by his statement attached, Lupe is an undocumented student. He has battled the stigmas, the challenges, and the adversity with grace and dignity. He has worked to support his family, kept up his grades, and has now transferred to CWU to continue with his education. Lupe walked through BBCC graduation last spring. His graduation picture is attached. (Please note his family decked out in BBCC colors – needless to say they are excited and proud of Lupe.)

If there are any questions about Lupe that I can answer, please feel free to contact me anytime. Thank you for the opportunity to hold Lupe up for all to see. He deserves every bit of recognition for his hard work and accomplishments.

TRANSFORMING LIVES AWARD: DECISION MATRIX

Student Name: Lupe Campos

Criteria	Comments	Score*
Student is from BBCC Service District		
Student completed a degree or certificate		
Student has made substantial progress in completing educational goals		
Student has demonstrated progress toward professional or personal goals		
Student presents a compelling personal story		
Student has overcome substantial barriers in pursuit of his or her goals		
Student received substantial support or benefit from his or her higher education experience		

*Scoring point system:

3 = Outstanding

2 = Good

1 = Minimal evidence



TACTC Winter Conference

Transforming Lives – January 28, 2015

College: Big Bend Community College

Nominee's Name: Aryan Dehbozorgi

The nominee is a:

Current Washington community or technical college student

Former Washington community or technical college student

Nominee's contact information:

Address: _____

Email: ADehbozorgi50@bigbend.edu

Phone numbers: please include at least one contact number.

Home: 509 766-2107

Work: _____

Cell: 509 855-3850

The reason(s) the board selected this nominee was/were: _____

Additional requirements:

The nominee's complete statement is included. *(Please note, statement will be published in Transforming Lives Booklet.)*

A letter of support written by the board is included.

A photograph of the nominee is included.

Photographs should be limited to the head and shoulders with a plain, light background.

Note: The college liaison will work with the district office to register awardees / nominees for the awards dinner.

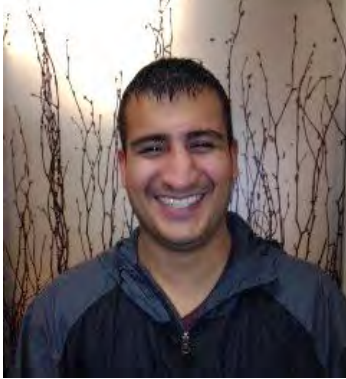
Will the nominee attend the 1/28/15 dinner? *The five awardees are expected to attend the event.*

Yes

No

Unknown

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It started with a death. A death, that through an arduous path, led to a regeneration of my life. When I was six, I lost my father to an aneurism. I did not know how his death would affect me in the future until I began experiencing life's unfairness.

Growing up under the care of my mother, life was a normal ride. When sophomore year of high school showed its face, I started feeding my invincibility and challenging the law. This led me to multiple encounters with the judge, placing me in juvenile detention multiple times, which later sprouted to me landing in county jail. My life was a mess and needed to turn around completely.

Through county jail, where I had the time to sit and quiet the chaos in my mind, I discovered a wound that never healed - the death of my father. I didn't know how it was going to heal, but I knew jail and my reckless behavior would not provide the balm for my pain or the success to my future goals. Being able to identify the root of my rebellious nature was the first step in not only the healing process, but in my growth, maturation, and transformation.

With a renewed mindset after jail, I set out building myself bottom up. I began the process of establishing a work ethic. Through 6 years, remodeling apartment complexes, working maintenance, and sustaining a scaffold business molded and shaped my personality as well as redefined my path in life. I saw the best and worst of people and developed a passion in communicating to both the extremes. This sparked an interest for public relations within me as I developed an appreciation and appetite for knowing more about the strategic communication process public relations consists of. This became the fuel to my motivation in pursuing higher education and establishing a better life for me.

Through my journey I developed a deep appreciation for those willing to help you out and run every mile with you, no matter what path it is run on and that was greatly exemplified by my mother who never gave up on me. Big Bend Community College has played a key role in my transformation. The college is more than taking classes and earning a transfer degree. I have also been totally engaged in campus life. I have served as a Peer Advocate Coach, belong to Phi Theta Kappa, TRIO and MECHA and am actively engaged in mentoring new students. I have presented at conferences and provided workshops on diversity for students, staff and faculty at Big Bend. The college has provided me the education and support to transform my life from a downward spiral to a successful pathway.

Big Bend Community College
Transforming Lives Award 2015
Support Document

Big Bend Community College Board of Trustees,

I am nominating Aryan Dehbozorgi for the Transforming Lives Award to represent Big Bend Community College at the TACTC Winter Conference. Aryan is an outstanding student that has found great success at Big Bend.

Aryan is a dedicated student spending long days on campus attending class, working in the STEM lab and serving as a PEER Advocate Leader. He volunteers to lead prospective students and parents on campus tours and encourages new students to engage in campus programs and support. Aryan demonstrates very strong leadership skills. He has presented diversity workshops for students, staff and faculty on campus. His ability to communicate complex issues and make them transparent to others is remarkable and will serve him well in his chosen area of study. He has become an accomplished speaker presenting at national conferences as a Peer Advocate Leader, traveling to Olympia to advocate for peer mentors with the state Education Committee, presenting to various groups on campus and volunteering in the Student Success Center and Transfer Fairs.

Though he made poor choices in his youth, he has completely transformed his life and his goals. He represents one of the best and most promising students at Big Bend Community College. He also continues to influence the transformation of others. It is my honor to nominate Aryan Dehbozorgi for the TACTC Transforming Lives Award.

Respectfully,

Terry Kinzel
Director of Title V Grants

TRANSFORMING LIVES AWARD: DECISION MATRIX

Student Name: Aryan Dehbozorgi

Criteria	Comments	Score*
Student is from BBCC Service District		
Student completed a degree or certificate		
Student has made substantial progress in completing educational goals		
Student has demonstrated progress toward professional or personal goals		
Student presents a compelling personal story		
Student has overcome substantial barriers in pursuit of his or her goals		
Student received substantial support or benefit from his or her higher education experience		

*Scoring point system:

3 = Outstanding

2 = Good

1 = Minimal evidence



TACTC Winter Conference

Transforming Lives – January 28, 2015

College: Big Bend Community College

Nominee's Name: Tabatha DeLong

The nominee is a:

- Current Washington community or technical college student
- Former Washington community or technical college student

Nominee's contact information:

Address: 310 Offutt
Moses Lake WA 98837

Email: TDeLong95@bigbend.edu

Phone numbers: please include at least one contact number.

Home: 509 762-9772
 Work: 509 793-2217
 Cell: 509 793-4792

The reason(s) the board selected this nominee was/were: _____

Additional requirements:

- The nominee's complete statement is included. *(Please note, statement will be published in Transforming Lives Booklet.)*
- A letter of support written by the board is included.
- A photograph of the nominee is included.
Photographs should be limited to the head and shoulders with a plain, light background.
- Note:** The college liaison will work with the district office to register awardees / nominees for the awards dinner.

Will the nominee attend the 1/28/15 dinner? *The five awardees are expected to attend the event.*

- Yes No Unknown

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My name is Tabatha DeLong. I am 21 years of age. I am the middle of three children. I have lived in Moses Lake my entire life. I graduated from Moses Lake High School in 2011. I enrolled in Big Bend Community College in the fall of 2011 and I graduated with my Associates Degree in Systems Administration in June of 2014. I am currently enrolled at Central Washington University to earn my Bachelor's Degree in Information Technology and Administrative Management.

I considered school as something that I legally had to do. There was no aspect of school that I enjoyed. The elementary school that I attended was considered one of poverty. Over 95% of the student population were on free or reduced lunch. My family didn't have the funds to send me and my brother to a different location. Although my brothers both thrived in the school environment, I did not. I struggled in both math and reading. I worked with tutors and even got extra help, but it didn't seem to help.

School life didn't get better for me throughout middle school. In High school I joined the band and was able to connect with people who were willing to help. I also joined the Culinary Team and won first in our district. Although I was good at cooking, I found that it was something that I didn't want to do with the rest of my life. I graduated High School with no real idea of what I wanted to do with the rest of my life.

I spent all summer after high school applying for jobs, but I never got a call back. So, my parents stated that I needed to go to college. My family didn't have enough money to send me to a four year university, so I started BBCC with no idea what direction I was going. I choose a degree in Business simply because it was there. I was already a year into my degree when I got word that BBCC was reinstating their Computer Science degree. Over the years and in high school, I had always been the person that people called on to fix their computers. Whether it was minor errors or a sticky keyboard, I was always the one to be called. I had never thought much of it, but I decided to enroll.

By the end of the quarter, I was hooked. The teachers were engaging, and the idea of what I could actually do was overwhelming. Before I knew it, graduation was right around the corner. One of the requirements I needed to fill to graduate was an internship. My advisor had been given a programming opportunity by the BBCC nursing department that I found intriguing. I applied and was accepted. An internship that was only supposed to last one quarter, lasted three. I spent the last year of my BBCC education as a student intern for the nursing department and loved every minute of it. Specifically, I helped implement the use of 3G Simulation Equipment.

Before I graduated with honors as one of six students from the BBCC Computer Science department, I was asked to continue working at BBCC. I applied and received two Perkin replication grants so I could continue my work over the next year. I was even sent to a Simulation User Networking conference in September 2014 through Title V funding to help me better understand the technology that I worked with every day. Also in September 2014, I began my class at Central Washington University. I am currently enrolled in 15 credits.

My hope for the future is to graduate CWU with my bachelor's degree in the ITAM program. I also am hoping to help BBCC organize and manage the Simulation degree that they are planning to offer in the upcoming years.

Andrea Elliott
Big Bend Community College
7662 Chanute Street NE
Moses Lake, WA 98837
andreae@bigbend.edu

October 14, 2014

Board of Trustees
Big Bend Community College
7662 Chanute Street NE
Moses Lake, WA 98837

Dear Board of Trustees:

I am writing this letter to recommend Tabatha DeLong for the Transforming Lives award. Tabatha and I first met when she applied for the internship opportunity within the Nursing Department at Big Bend Community College. Specifically, the Nursing Department was looking for a computer science intern to help the faculty and students implement the use of 3G Simulation equipment within the program's curriculum. Tabatha's interest and excitement about working with simulation equipment made her the prime candidate for this position.

As I began to work with Tabatha, several key characteristics began to shine. First, Tabatha is self-motivated. She works diligently to complete tasks to the best of her ability and takes pride in her work. Her continual progression toward excellence is marked by her constant desire to seek feedback from others. She often follows up with faculty and students after a simulation in order to determine what went well and what could be improved. Receiving feedback is important to her because she feels like it gives her direction on how to improve the way that she runs and works with the simulation equipment in the future.

Tabatha is also a risk taker. I believe that this is one of her most admirable qualities because it enables her to be innovative and forward thinking. Tabatha is constantly engaged in simulation research in order to learn different techniques that our nursing program can try to implement in order to prepare the nursing students for the clinical setting. Sometimes this means that Tabatha is creating her own devices or programs that fit the needs of our nursing program. An example of this is when Tabatha programmed several different patient monitors to reflect different cardiac rhythms so that the nursing students could have practice identifying a plethora of "live" cardiac strips within the classroom setting.

Additionally, Tabatha has initiative. She is not afraid to take the initiative to call our Laerdal representatives (simulation equipment supply source) to troubleshoot problems and find creative solutions. Tabatha's willingness to take on tasks that help move our program forward is admirable. Another example of this initiative in action is her eagerness to give simulation presentations to Upward Bound students in order to encourage them to go to college and pursue an advanced degree.

All that Tabatha has accomplished is truly remarkable for any person. However, Tabatha's accomplishments become exceptional when combined with her background. Tabatha grew up in a lower socioeconomic household and she never dreamed that she would ever accomplish much. She never seemed to do well in school and seemed to fall into college by accident. However, while at Big Bend Community College, Tabatha's instructors began to invest in her success. She felt like her instructors believed in her and truly wanted her to succeed. Through her computer science instructors' guidance, training, and support, Tabatha applied for the Simulation internship in the Big Bend Community College Nursing program and flew. Tabatha is a fantastic example of how Big Bend Community College works to transform lives so that every student may actualize their unique gifts and talents in order to joyfully engage in a career path that they find truly rewarding.

Sincerely,

Andrea Elliott

Instructional Designer for the Nursing Program

TRANSFORMING LIVES AWARD: DECISION MATRIX

Student Name: Tabatha DeLong

Criteria	Comments	Score*
Student is from BBCC Service District		
Student completed a degree or certificate		
Student has made substantial progress in completing educational goals		
Student has demonstrated progress toward professional or personal goals		
Student presents a compelling personal story		
Student has overcome substantial barriers in pursuit of his or her goals		
Student received substantial support or benefit from his or her higher education experience		

*Scoring point system:

3 = Outstanding

2 = Good

1 = Minimal evidence



TACTC Winter Conference

Transforming Lives – January 28, 2015

College: Big Bend Community College

Nominee's Name: Arnoldo Garcia

The nominee is a:

- Current Washington community or technical college student
- Former Washington community or technical college student

Nominee's contact information:

Address: 440 Cherry Street, Apt C11 or PO Box 28
Royal City, WA 99357

Email: Agarcia44@bigbend.edu

Phone numbers: please include at least one contact number.

Home: _____

Work: _____

Cell: 509-346-3976

The reason(s) the board selected this nominee was/were: _____

Additional requirements:

- The nominee's complete statement is included. *(Please note, statement will be published in Transforming Lives Booklet.)*
- A letter of support written by the board is included.
- A photograph of the nominee is included.
Photographs should be limited to the head and shoulders with a plain, light background.
- Note:** The college liaison will work with the district office to register awardees / nominees for the awards dinner.

Will the nominee attend the 1/28/15 dinner? *The five awardees are expected to attend the event.*

- Yes No Unknown

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Crossing the border. As a six year old boy it wasn't something that I thought about. For my parents it was a life changing; life threatening decision. My parents had a dream of bettering our family opportunities. To them, the answer was simple. But crossing the border was only the start of many obstacles my family would face: a foreign language, places they had never seen before, no schooling or qualified skills to work a legitimate job. My sister would often work alongside my parents in the fields to help

support us while I took care of my younger sister. I remember when I began the 2nd grade, my mother told me to hold my younger sisters hand and take care of her. We both rode the school bus, got to school safely, I was only a child but I could clearly remember my mother's voice as we walked down the hallways for the first time. *"Aqui vas a comensar una escuela muy buena, y algun dia tendras una buena carrera mijo"* "This is where you begin a good school and one day you will have a good career son." Those words follow me today. I was fortunate to be at the right age where my mind soaked up my second language. My parents were so proud of me for learning it within months. *"Este si que tiene una buena cabeza"* or "This one sure does have a good head" they said. In the 8th grade, I began thinking about being in the country illegally. I began to allow myself to drift and fall behind in school. June 2012 I graduated. I'm off to the fields as expected. I had almost accepted a typical life for an undocumented worker. Things changed that fall, the opportunity to attend Big Bend Community College presented itself with a full scholarship from the College Success Foundation. It was here that I was given a second chance academically and I knew that this was the key that would lead to my success. Being the first in my family to seek out higher education is something my parents didn't go through. I often find them enchanted when they hear all the decisions that I make with school. Now after two years, attending Big Bend has opened my mind to so many possibilities. As a PAC Leader for the past year I have had the opportunity to engage on campus more positively than ever. I have learned how to be a leader, but I also have had opportunity's to share my experiences to help others be successful, like me, both on campus and off at a Dreamers Conference, IMPACT Conference, and a statewide SBCTC Conference. My future awaits at CWU where I will major in Foreign Language Education - however I am keeping my options open. I am currently taking advantage of opportunities presented to me by job shadowing other professions such as a district court judge. BBCC has given me the skills to advocate for myself and others and be in leadership positions to make a difference. The potential that my mentors and teachers helped me realize in myself is something wonderful that I will take with me to guide me as I reach out for my dreams.

Transforming Lives Award – 2015

Recommendation Letter for Arnaldo Garcia

From: Beth S. Laszlo, Student Success Center Coordinator

Attached please find the documents necessary to nominate Arnaldo Garcia for the 2015 Transforming Lives Award.

When I presented this opportunity to Arnaldo, his first reaction was one of total appreciation, but with great humility. Arnaldo is not one to revel in his abilities, his successes or take the opportunities he has afforded himself for granted. Although he has lived an extraordinary life (that many read about in great novels or watch it all unfold on the big screen) Arny sees himself just another student. Did he have to battle the stigma of being undocumented, hiding a secret from the world, and wanting more from life than those around him? Absolutely! But, he wasn't sure how to achieve his dreams.

A PAC Leader in his CSS class recognized his caring, quiet, gentle, supportive attributes and asked him to participate in the PAC program the following quarter. Pushing himself outside of his comfort level, as a PAC Leader, has given him the means to begin his journey of achieving his dreams.

As of Winter Qtr, 2014 Arny has participated as a PAC Leader. Every quarter Arnaldo is the PAC Leader that I can count on. He gladly accepts opportunities to speak – seeing it as a way to further his communication skills. He has presented to the Board of Trustees, the Cabinet, at an all-faculty meeting, and a national conference for student leaders (IMPACT). He faces each challenge with a smile that brightens any room. He has connected with each quarters' PAC Team and each student in the CSS Classes that he has led. The instructors also appreciate Arny for his positive, calm outlook and attitude.

If there are any questions about Arnaldo that I can answer, please feel free to contact me anytime. Thank you for the opportunity to hold Arnaldo up for all to see. He deserves every bit of recognition for his hard work and accomplishments.

TRANSFORMING LIVES AWARD: DECISION MATRIX

Student Name: Arnaldo Garcia

Criteria	Comments	Score*
Student is from BBCC Service District		
Student completed a degree or certificate		
Student has made substantial progress in completing educational goals		
Student has demonstrated progress toward professional or personal goals		
Student presents a compelling personal story		
Student has overcome substantial barriers in pursuit of his or her goals		
Student received substantial support or benefit from his or her higher education experience		

*Scoring point system:

3 = Outstanding

2 = Good

1 = Minimal evidence



TACTC Winter Conference

Transforming Lives – January 28, 2015

College: Big Bend Community College

Nominee's Name: Emmanuel Garcia

The nominee is a:

- Current Washington community or technical college student
- Former Washington community or technical college student

Nominee's contact information:

Address: 1144 Grand Dr
Moses Lake, WA 98837

Email: Egarcia44@bigbend.edu

Phone numbers: please include at least one contact number.

Home: _____

Work: _____

Cell: 509-989-1454

The reason(s) the board selected this nominee was/were: _____

Additional requirements:

- The nominee's complete statement is included. *(Please note, statement will be published in Transforming Lives Booklet.)*
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- A photograph of the nominee is included.
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Will the nominee attend the 1/28/15 dinner? *The five awardees are expected to attend the event.*

- Yes No Unknown

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Emanuel Garcia 10/13/2014



In July of 2009, I was caught in the web of drug addiction, fighting the anguish of losing my father, and hit square in the face with a four year prison sentence. At the age of thirty, my life seemed to be spiraling downward and my future completely out of reach. Despite the embarrassment and guilt of my own actions, deep down inside I knew this was a defining moment in my life, and I vowed to myself that I would no longer remain a slave to my past, that I would break through my fears, and that I would put an end to the tormenting cycle of substance abuse. It has been said that the greatest victories come at the greatest cost; I paid the price and achieved personal and public victory when I made the choice to change my life through education. There were many obstacles in my way while in prison. For example, I worked hard for thirty cents an hour, eight hours a day, for the sole purpose of investing in my educational future. I was able to save enough money to pay off some debt to the Department of Education, so that I could make a smooth transition back to college once I was released. This shows that despite heavy opposition, nothing was going to stop me from enrolling in Big Bend Community College.

Since the fall of 2012, my college journey has been all about experiencing new things. I have been recognized for academic excellence, made it on the President's List, earned an English writing award, selected as Star Night Speaker, SALT advocate, tutor students, and actively participating in programs such as: TRIO, M.A.P.A., and P.A.C. Team, all of which have been contributing factors to my success. Not only am I active in education, but also my community—involved in local youth ministry and part of the core leadership team at Sendero LifeCenter. This has helped me understand the value of serving others, and allowed me to witness the miracle of seeing lives transformed, namely my own.

My goal is to get a Transfer Degree, major in Psychology with a minor in Business, and eventually get a Doctoral Degree in Clinical Psychology. Being selected for the Transforming Life Award would be the internal force and external motivation needed to enlarge my testimony and build character—empowering others along the way. I have come to learn that on the chain of education there is a master link—networking and partnership. So, in partnering with Big Bend Community College, whose mission is “delivering lifelong success along with community engagement,” I will be connected to the chain of unending lifelong learning. The vision and values of Big Bend Community College have radically changed and improved the quality of my life. This is more than an award; this is the heartbeat of Big Bend Community College, which provides students like me with tools and resources, making transformation an inevitable expression of everyday life.

Transforming Lives Award – 2015

Recommendation Letter for Emmanuel Garcia

From: Beth S. Laszlo, Student Success Center Coordinator

Attached please find the documents necessary to nominate Emmanuel Garcia for the 2015 Transforming Lives Award.

I have had the distinct honor to work with Emmanuel Garcia for several quarters through the Tutoring and PAC Leader program. Last spring, Manny stood out at the Student Success Center. He was always willing to help others with homework and/or other challenges they may be facing. Because of this, I was able to hire him as a tutor for several subjects this summer and fall.

In addition to his tutoring position, Manny is currently a student mentor as a PAC Leader. He has taken the lead with his PAC Team members, and is always willing to support anyone who needs his attention. I appreciate his positive outlook, regardless of the trials he endured in his younger days.

If there are any questions about Emmanuel that I can offer, please feel free to contact me anytime. Manny deserves every bit of recognition for his hard work and accomplishments.

TRANSFORMING LIVES AWARD: DECISION MATRIX

Student Name: Emmanuel Garcia

Criteria	Comments	Score*
Student is from BBCC Service District		
Student completed a degree or certificate		
Student has made substantial progress in completing educational goals		
Student has demonstrated progress toward professional or personal goals		
Student presents a compelling personal story		
Student has overcome substantial barriers in pursuit of his or her goals		
Student received substantial support or benefit from his or her higher education experience		

*Scoring point system:

3 = Outstanding

2 = Good

1 = Minimal evidence



TACTC Winter Conference

Transforming Lives – January 28, 2015

College: Big Bend Community College

Nominee's Name: Maribel Gomez-Aguilar

The nominee is a:

- Current Washington community or technical college student
- Former Washington community or technical college student

Nominee's contact information:

Address: PO Box 2143

Mattawa, WA 99349

Email: Maribel.GomezAguilar@inspire-centers.org

Phone numbers: please include at least one contact number.

Home: _____

Work: 509-932-4401

Cell: 509-304-5332

The reason(s) the board selected this nominee was/were: _____

Additional requirements:

- The nominee's complete statement is included. *(Please note, statement will be published in Transforming Lives Booklet.)*
- A letter of support written by the board is included.
- A photograph of the nominee is included.
Photographs should be limited to the head and shoulders with a plain, light background.
- Note:** The college liaison will work with the district office to register awardees / nominees for the awards dinner.

Will the nominee attend the 1/28/15 dinner? *The five awardees are expected to attend the event.*

- Yes No Unknown

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As a former student of Big Bend Community College, I have to appreciate all the dedication Terry Kinzel put into convincing board members and other people to bring distance learning to Mattawa back in 2007. I live in a rural community where college is an hour and half away, but had hopes that one day I would be able to return to school. I am the oldest child of migrant farmworkers who struggled to find work in rural

Mattawa. I had my first child before graduating from High School and struggled mightily to find a job outside of the fields to support my family. My first job that was not field work was an entry level position for the Big Bend Community College Even Start program. I could barely answer the telephone I was so shy and afraid. The staff at Even Start encouraged and supported me to seek more education. When the time came that there would be Interactive TV classes, I was the first one to register. I remember being nervous going back to school because I was an average student who didn't earn good grades. I always felt that school was not for me. As time went by, and I started to take an English course, I was lucky to have the best tutors to help me. In my workplace, I was able to get face to face help in addition to online tutors from Big Bend. Although I did all my courses online, I have to say that I took responsibility in completing my assignment on time and had good communication with the professors. Big Bend gave me a lot of information for opportunities to apply for scholarships and I was able to check out books for classes that I was taking.

Big Bend changed my life because after completing my required courses I was able to transfer to a university where I received help from Big Bend staff that guided me through the process. I will always be thankful to Terry because she was my guardian angel inspiring me to pursue something that I thought I would never do. Now, I have my Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Studies, a great job with *Inspire* and a secure future. I have learned that education is an investment for a better life. There were many times when I wanted to drop out of college, but I needed to set an example for my kids. Now, my kids are more eager to attend school and become something in life. It took me 6 years to finish my AA and BA degree all online while raising 3 children and working full time.

I hope to set an example to other students who are about to start a new path or who are already in college and are about to call it a quits. I encourage others in my community and at my workplace to continue a pathway in higher education. Thank you for the opportunity of being a Big Bend student.

Big Bend Community College
Transforming Lives Award 2015
Support Document

Big Bend Community College Board of Trustees,

I am nominating Maribel Gomez-Aguilar for the Transforming Lives Award to represent Big Bend Community College at the TACTC Winter Conference. I first met Ms. Gomez Aguilar in 2002 when she was hired as a temporary worker through a WorkSouce training program that supported employment experience for low income job seekers. She was placed at the Esperanza Center in the Even Start Family Literacy program as a program assistant. She was painfully shy but committed to learning new skills. She was a diligent hard worker, struggling to make ends meet and fighting constantly to better herself despite the fact that her husband wanted her to work in the fields where he thought she could earn more money in backbreaking labor. Each year Maribel became a more valuable employee, quickly learning and expanding her job duties. She wanted to go to college, however her husband forbid her to drive the 70 miles one way to campus. She waited five long years for distance learning to come to Mattawa. Her dedication to her studies was exemplary but even more outstanding was her ability to encourage, support and promote distance learning to the running start students in Mattawa and community members that wanted to expand their education opportunity. Maribel worked tirelessly in the Even Start program gaining confidence and expertise through classes at Big Bend and was promoted to higher positions within the program.

Most Big Bend students join clubs on campus to become more engaged in their learning opportunity. However, Maribel leveraged work opportunities to attend Grant County Agency meetings to seek greater services for families in Mattawa. She formed an Interagency Support Council that met regularly in Mattawa to bring much needed services to the community. Maribel worked closely with the Wahluke School District to promote student success, parent participation in their child's classroom and encouraged parents to attend school board meetings. Maribel stepped in to provide health and safety information for families and became trained in car seat installation to aid new mothers. She organized community Health Fairs and promoted Citizenship classes.

After completing her Bachelors in Early Children's Studies, Maribel earned a position with the Inspire Head Start program as a family advocate. She continues to promote Big Bend Community College to the Inspire staff, and advocate for higher education to the community of Mattawa. She has not only transformed her life, but continues to influence the transformation of others. It is my honor to nominate Maribel Gomez-Aguilar for the TACTC Transforming Lives Award.

Respectfully,

Terry Kinzel
Director of Title V Grants

TRANSFORMING LIVES AWARD: DECISION MATRIX

Student Name: Maribel Gomez-Aguilar

Criteria	Comments	Score*
Student is from BBCC Service District		
Student completed a degree or certificate		
Student has made substantial progress in completing educational goals		
Student has demonstrated progress toward professional or personal goals		
Student presents a compelling personal story		
Student has overcome substantial barriers in pursuit of his or her goals		
Student received substantial support or benefit from his or her higher education experience		

*Scoring point system:

3 = Outstanding

2 = Good

1 = Minimal evidence



TACTC Winter Conference

Transforming Lives – January 28, 2015

College: Big Bend Community College

Nominee's Name: Alicia Wallace

The nominee is a:

- Current Washington community or technical college student
- Former Washington community or technical college student

Nominee's contact information:

Address: 816 N Evelyn Drive
Moses Lake, WA 98837

Email: aliciaw@bigbend.edu

Phone numbers: please include at least one contact number.

Home: None
Work: 509.793.2049
Cell: 509.771.0411

The reason(s) the board selected this nominee was/were: _____

Additional requirements:

- The nominee's complete statement is included. *(Please note, statement will be published in Transforming Lives Booklet.)*
- A letter of support written by the board is included.
- A photograph of the nominee is included.
Photographs should be limited to the head and shoulders with a plain, light background.
- Note:** The college liaison will work with the district office to register awardees / nominees for the awards dinner.

Will the nominee attend the 1/28/15 dinner? *The five awardees are expected to attend the event.*

- Yes No Unknown

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Alicia Wallace

I was a young mother of two small children when I found the courage to leave a bad situation. I had been a stay-at-home mom since completing my high school diploma. As a newly single parent, I didn't have any financial resources, a job, or really any work experience. I applied for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families in January of 2010 to support my children, and through the WorkFirst program I came to Big Bend Community College for training.

I began computer training through the WorkFirst program at Big Bend and quickly completed the training. I was asked by a staff member if I had thought about going to college. I had thought about it a lot as a kid, but didn't think it was an option for me as a single mother with two children. With the support and guidance of Ana in the WorkFirst Department, I completed everything I needed to do to go to college. By June 2010, I was registered to begin college in the fall. I made the President's List my first quarter.

The WorkFirst program got me started in college and referred me to other campus services, including the Opportunity Grant and Basic Food Employment & Training programs, and I was offered a work study position in the WorkFirst department. There were times when I wanted to give up but kept pushing through because I knew this was something that I needed to do for myself and for my children. One of my greatest supporters was Darci, a staff member in the WorkFirst department. She was one of the most important people in my college career. Darci was someone I could talk to about my challenges and frustrations. When I felt like giving up, Darci pushed me to continue toward my goal.

Daneen, in the Business Information Management program, was also a driving force in my education. Daneen was there every quarter helping me sign up for my classes, making sure that I was not missing classes that were only offered once a year. She kept me on a strict path to timely success. Not only was she a wonderful advisor, she was also a great instructor. She never gave her students the easy way out and always made them work for their grades.

I am proud that I graduated with highest honors when I received my AAS in Business Medical Office and Billing in March 2013, becoming the first in my family to complete a college degree. I took some time off to have a baby and marry David, my wonderful and supportive husband. I returned to Big Bend to work part-time in September 2013. When my mentor and greatest cheerleader, Darci, took a new position, I applied and was selected as a Program Assistant for the newly formed Workforce Education Services department at Big Bend. I now have the opportunity to motivate, support, and mentor other students on their pathways to success.



October 16, 2014

RE: TACTC Transforming Lives Recommendation Statement for Alicia Wallace

Dear Big Bend Community College Board of Trustees:

Alicia Wallace's story is a perfect example of *lives* transformed by Big Bend Community College. She and her children would not be where they are today if it wasn't for Big Bend. Alicia was a newly single parent with a tough future ahead when she came to Big Bend for training through the WorkFirst program. Her story demonstrates how hard work, perseverance, and outstanding support come together to produce student success.

Alicia graduated from high school early because she was pregnant with her eldest child. She was a stay-at-home mom for six years, raising her two children. Alicia realized it was time to leave her children's father because he was headed down a path of self-destruction that was not good for them. I can't image the strength and courage it took for her to leave when she didn't have a job or source of income to support her children.

In Alicia's essay, she writes about how she was unable to find a job without any experience. She came to Big Bend to participate in the WorkFirst program, which lead her to Business Information Management to earn a degree. She was supported by several staff members in the WorkFirst program, particularly Darci Alamos. Daneen Berry-Guerin, in Business Information Management, was a great instructor and advisor to Alicia. During her time as a student, Alicia tutored other students and held a work-study position in my department. I remember Alicia saying how hard it was to go to school and be a single parent. Despite all the challenges she faced, Alicia's academic record was impressive. She graduated with highest honors in March, 2013.

One of the most amazing aspects of Alicia's story is that she now works with students to help them be successful. She is a Program Assistant in the Workforce Education Services department. She was hired in March, 2014 and successfully passed her probation period six months later. When she facilitates orientations for new students in the WorkFirst program and she starts out by saying, "Four years ago, I was where you are now..." The energy in the room changes when students hear her story. She explains to them how her life was transformed by Big Bend Community College. Alicia is an inspiration to other students and truly deserving of this honor—she is the perfect example of how community and technical colleges Transform Lives! I hope you select Alicia Wallace as the nominee from Big Bend.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Heidi Summers'.

Heidi Summers

Director of Workforce Education Services

TRANSFORMING LIVES AWARD: DECISION MATRIX

Student Name: Alicia Wallace

Criteria	Comments	Score*
Student is from BBCC Service District		
Student completed a degree or certificate		
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