

Dear I Am Abel Foundation Board Members,

My name is Jessica Guzman, and I am writing to apply for the position of Mentee Leader and Auxiliary Board Member. When I first heard about this opportunity from Dr. LaMenta Conway, I knew that this was something I wanted to do, as I am a big advocate for helping those whose voice has been silenced. Growing up I was always silenced by others because I would question many things, but once I was able to start using my voice and rise from that oppressive environment, I saw that I was able to help others. Knowing how hard it was to overcome this, I want to be able to help speak for those who have or are experiencing the same thing. If given this opportunity I plan to use my voice for those who have been silenced and help offer them the same privileges I have.

Being from a low-income family, I know the challenges and injustices one can face in our lives. Because of such experiences I have been a big advocate through high school as I was a part of Cristeros in Action, which is a club that focuses on social change. Through this club I was able to go to Washington D.C. to attend the IFTJ conference. Where I was given the chance to talk to Senator Jesus Garcia's assistant about immigration detention centers and the injustices that happen in these places. Through this conference I was also able to learn from many others, fighting for the same injustices I was. This experience has made me be a better advocate for my own community of underrepresented people. I have also taken a course about leadership and social change through the Experiment in International Living in South Africa. Where I was learning about different African communities and experiencing the different resources and different opportunities they have. Through this program I was able to better understand people who came from different backgrounds and find commonality to unite and fight alongside each other.

Although I have past leadership experience in student council and robotics, this type of leadership is something that allows me to be an active fighter for my people and help offer them the resources they need to succeed. Although this will be a challenge for me, I am willing to do this because I know how much I can help others through this experience. My ambition to do this is strong, not only for myself but for others. With 4 years of work experience I believe I am the perfect fit for this position as I am able to quietly learn new tasks. I am also organized as I have had to manage multiple projects at once and also focus on finishing monthly tasks. This experience will not only help me step out of my comfort zone and test my limits but will also offer me hands on learning about advocating for patients and working on a team.

If given this opportunity I hope to accomplish, helping my fellow students find their voice and use it as a way to fight the injustices we face daily. I hope my fellow students can also learn how to use our misfortune as a strength to create our motivation and ambition to bring change to our world. Because just like we say, "I am able to rise from defeat and refuse to give up on my aspirations. Because I am Abel. I am able to use my words and actions to uplift, increasing the confidence of my brothers and myself. Because I am Abel". Not only will I live up to our motto, but I will also help bring more resources with my voice, which speaks for many

Sincerely,

Jessica Guzman