



Re: Alexa Gonzalez
STEM SCHOLARSHIP

February 22, 2026

Dear Selection Committee Members,

It is my pleasure to give Alexa Gonzalez my strongest recommendation. Alexa's academic and professional background, as well as her global perspective and proven dedication to improve health outcomes for women and children up against systemic healthcare disparities, make her an exemplary candidate for this opportunity. Alexa truly has a passion for medicine and public health, along with a long-term goal of building a meaningful bridge between public health, medicine, and the policymaking process. She is dedicated to the proposition that lasting change in healthcare requires collaboration between scientific research, clinical practice, and thoughtful policy. These principles guide her academic decisions and professional aspirations. They also demonstrate her commitment to integrating medicine, research, and public health and speak to what a great fit Alexa is with your Summer Internship Program.

As the Managing Director of Programs for The Archer Center, I have witnessed Alexa's exceptional spirit, strong character, leadership, resilience, and dedication to public health and medicine during her time in Washington as an Archer Fellow and beyond. Alexa has consistently demonstrated the qualities of a standout scholar and leader, earning the respect of her peers as well as the Archer faculty and professional staff. In all things, Alexa is exceptionally thoughtful. Her ethos of engaged, servant leadership, strong EQ and genuine care for others, sprinkled with enthusiasm and a willingness to roll up her sleeves to support others, will make Alexa an excellent future physician and continued public health advocate. She has a natural leadership ability, as well as a desire to engage with her community and serve others. I recommend her strongly and without reservation.

Alexa's commitment to public health, medicine, healthcare policy, and public service writ large, is strong. I met Alexa in August 2025, on her arrival in DC as part of the Fall 2025 Archer Fellow cohort. The [Archer Fellowship](#) is a competitive fellowship awarded only to the best and brightest students from across the University of Texas System. Our mission is "to educate the next generation of leaders for local, state, federal, and international service via our academic and experiential learning programs in Washington, DC." Applicants undergo a rigorous admissions process that involves an extensive written application, demonstrated commitment to and passion for public service, and robust committee interview. The Archer Fellowship is intensive and requires students to balance a full-time internship, courses focused on the policymaking process and enhanced research and advocacy skills, along with interacting with a varied cohort of students, representing multiple disciplines and all schools throughout the UT System. Archer Fellows also participate in community service and engage in policy roundtables with public and private sector leaders. As a result of the Archer Fellowship, students develop an increased understanding of the federal policymaking process, hone their abilities to contribute to civil society, and elevate policy-focused public discourse.

For Alexa, the Archer Fellowship was an excellent conduit for her to meld her interest in public health, women's, maternal and community health with a full-time research and policy internship with the Department of Prevention and Community Health, at George Washington University's Milken Institute School of Public Health. There, Alexa made a spectacular impact to research projects on Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting prevention and health equity. She also brought literature and data to life for policymakers and women's healthcare stakeholders in a way that allowed them to make evidence-based policy recommendations in a cross-cultural and patient-centric fashion. The work that Alexa undertook during her Milken Institute internship exemplifies her motivation to make a real

difference in health outcomes for women and babies, especially those from under-resourced backgrounds. I know that she can make an even bigger difference in the future, when equipped with a medical education.

Alexa is a natural and enthusiastic leader, whose personality draws others to her. She, in turn, was drawn to the Archer Fellowship as a catalyst for public service and leadership development. As an Archer Fellow, Alexa was widely regarded by the Archer Center's team as a standout member of her cohort. She readily demonstrated an easy rapport with peers and professionals, drawing on her strong character to excel in a myriad of interpersonal environments. In bipartisan conversations and in discussions across the aisle, with students and policymakers alike, Alexa routinely demonstrated empathy, integrity, and professionalism. She consistently engaged thoughtfully, evoking insightful analyses, all while demonstrating an impressive understanding of the complexities of policymaking and advocacy. Her intellectual curiosity and ability to articulate nuanced arguments set her apart as a leader in the classroom. The Archer Center's fellowship program involves thought-provoking and challenging conversations involving complex and often highly emotionally charged political, ethical, and cultural topics. Alexa actively participated in all Archer Center discussions on difficult topics in a respectful, thoughtful, and measured manner. I am confident of her ability to bring these qualities to the rigors of medicine and public health practice. I am also confident that these same qualities, strong academic skillset, and forthcoming medical training will serve Alexa well in uplifting the voices of women and children fighting for better healthcare outcomes around the world.

Alexa naturally demonstrates a strong commitment to public health advocacy and empowerment of women and children on the global stage, in part shaped by her own global experiences growing up in a border community as a Mexican-Costa Rican international student, as well as studying in Korea, and teaching in Thailand and Indonesia. Alexa's experiences in these spaces, detailed so beautifully in her personal statements submitted as part of her application to your summer program, speak to her awareness of the fragility of health outcomes, and the power of advocacy for those who need a compassionate public health advocate. They also speak to Alexa's awareness of the need to dismantle systemic barriers to healthcare and of the power of education.

In summary, Alexa exemplifies a principled, resilient, and intellectually driven leader. She is deeply committed to uplifting others as a future physician and a professional dedicated to service and leadership. Already at this stage of her education and professional life, she is an outstanding advocate for women's and maternal public healthcare. She has a history of student leadership and a dedication to public service, along with a positive and strong rapport with peers and a reputation for integrity.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at cwashington@utsystem.edu regarding Alexa's candidacy.

Sincerely,

Christine Washington

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