

Dear Scholarship Selection Committee,

My name is Dominic Jay “DJ” Leon Guerrero Crisostomo, and I serve as the Assistant Director for the Office of First-Generation Student Success at the University of Washington Tacoma. In this role, I support first generation college students and help develop programming for students who are the first in their families to attend a four-year university.

It is truly an honor to write this letter of support on behalf of Kailey Lawless. From the moment I first met Kailey, I was immediately struck by her perseverance, leadership, and deep commitment to serving others. She possesses a rare combination of resilience, compassion, and determination that sets her apart as both a student and leader.

I was first introduced to Kailey during her transition from Tacoma Community College to the University of Washington Tacoma. One of her professors at Tacoma Community College, who is also a colleague and friend of mine, told me, “This one is a firecracker.” He followed that by saying, “Please take care of this one for me. She’s resilient, resourceful, and will maximize every opportunity afforded to her.” Since then, Kailey has continuously exceeded every expectation.

Kailey’s leadership is reflected in both her academic excellence and community engagement. She consistently demonstrates intellectual curiosity, thoughtful classroom participation, and an exceptional ability to balance significant responsibilities. She has maintained a 3.99 GPA while raising two children, working professionally, and serving in multiple leadership and advocacy roles. Her accomplishments have earned her recognition through the Chancellor’s Medal, the Husky 100 Award, and the Governor’s Student Civic Leadership Award.

Beyond academics, Kailey has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to advocacy and service. During her time at UW Tacoma, she worked as a Peer Navigator with the Husky Post Prison Pathways program, supporting formerly incarcerated and justice impacted students as they transitioned into higher education. That work eventually led her into the full-time role she now holds as a Community-Based Corrections Education Navigator, where she helps incarcerated, formerly incarcerated, and justice-impacted individuals throughout Pierce County access education, career pathways, and reentry support services.

In addition to her professional responsibilities, Kailey served as President of the Formerly Incarcerated Student Association (FISA), where she expanded support, advocacy, and opportunities for justice-impacted students both on campus and in the broader community. Her leadership consistently reflects empathy, professionalism, and a strong commitment to creating meaningful change.

I also witnessed Kailey’s persistence firsthand during her transition to UW Tacoma, where she navigated numerous administrative barriers and conflicting information with professionalism and determination. Rather than becoming discouraged, she remained solution focused and ultimately helped improve processes for future students.

Her leadership and impact were evident long before arriving at UW Tacoma. At Tacoma Community College, Kailey helped revitalize the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society chapter, creating momentum and sustainability that continued after her departure. She has consistently demonstrated a commitment to service, advocacy, and creating opportunities for others.

What stands out most about Kailey is the legacy she is already building. She has dedicated herself to public service, educational equity, and advocacy for marginalized communities, and I have no doubt she will continue making meaningful contributions throughout her career.

In closing, I strongly and wholeheartedly recommend Kailey Lawless for this scholarship opportunity. She is exceptionally deserving of your support, and I am confident that any investment made in her education and future will positively impact not only her own life, but also the many communities she serves. Please do not hesitate to reach out if any additional information would be helpful.

Sincerely,



Dominic Jay “DJ” Leon Guerrero Crisostomo
Assistant Director for The Office of First Gen

First Generation Student Initiatives
Career and Social Mobility
Division of Student Affairs

1900 Commerce Street, Box 358410
Tacoma, Washington 98402
Main: 253.692.5678 / djcrisos@uw.edu