



Colorado Student Leaders Institute

An affiliate of the National Conference of Governors Schools

Student Testimonials & Self-Nominations for Student Board

"I think I should be on the student board because this program really changed my life. All my life I grew up thinking my homeless background was all I could be. I thought that I was just going to be limited. I cried for a long while about the fact I got in because I wasn't over the smartest, I was bullied, and I always let my dad down. I'm doing this for my dad. I need to succeed for him not for myself. I want to be on the student board to help other people change their lives onto a path of success. I've always seen myself as a natural leader, and I want to lead others into the next passages of their lives just like you and others helped me reach the next stage of my life when I was terrified."

"As you know, I live in a tiny town - a place where opportunity is scarce. I need to literally reach for the stars if I want to open doors and to make my dreams come into fruition. I don't believe in waiting around for luck, fate, or chance, so when I was accepted into COSLI, it felt like everything was lining up perfectly. I've learned, questioned, and experienced so much from the program. My dreams got bigger and my hunger for success and service got wider. I plan to go back home with all sorts of meetings, startups, you name it, I'll be doing it.

My future may seem like a mess, but my immediate plan and aspiration is set: to earn a position on the COSLI board. I will always be willing to dedicate time, be an advocating voice, and make sacrifices to help the program. I am able to come up with new ideas for the next session, in addition to adding my voice to the debates about this month. Although I may be overly honest at times, I am always acting with compassion and logic. Finally, I have never been so passionate about a program as I am about COSLI, this past month has been one of the best ever and I want to be more involved. Thank you for all you have done and I hope you seriously consider my application."

"In a matter of 28 days this program has changed me both on a personal level and it has made me want to strive for more when it comes to my education. Thanks to all the guest speakers we had over the time we were here, I was able to understand that no matter what you want in life, as long as you set your mind to it, you will achieve it. I know that if I continue to be a part of the COSLI program, many big doors will open for me and I will make it my job to give the same opportunities that I am getting to other kids throughout the state."

"My whole life people have told me, "the apple doesn't fall far from the tree". My parents' actions weighed heavy on my shoulders as I had to decide who I wanted to be. I could follow in their steps and become a dropout and a drug addict, or I could learn from their mistakes. I have worked every day to shake off the legacy my parents have left for me and to become someone I am proud to be. When my mom first went to jail, I thought my life was over and I would never be anything more. I lost hope. This program has restored my hope in myself, shown me that no matter your upbringing, you can succeed. I want to instill that hope in other kids who come from situations like mine. I want to show them that you can be homeless, the daughter of two addicts and a first generation, and still succeed. This program has prepared me for college and restored my passion for learning that I wasn't aware that I lost. COSLI is a program of hope, dreams, and success. COSLI is a program I want to be a member of for a very long time. I would be honored to be on the student board to show that sometimes the apple can fall very far from the tree."

"Based on my actions, work ethic, and potential, I feel that I would be a great addition to the COSLI student leadership board. When help was needed, I stepped in because I truly care about the success of this program. I am dedicated to COSLI because it has opened my eyes and mind; I would like to see this program grow so that it can do the same for others. I am also a leader in my community through community service organizations, such as National Honor Society. Overall, I want to see this program continue to flourish because it's a great opportunity that all future leaders should have. If I was a member of the COSLI student leadership board, I would contribute innovative ideas and solutions to further the success of COSLI for years to come."

"To begin, I believe that I can apply my knowledge and background time spent being a leader to the Student Board. I know what it takes to be a main leader on such an important board, making decisions that could affect either a small portion of people, or widely affect the whole program. Helping others and making sure they are on the right track is something that I find very passionate, because everyone deserves someone that will help them. Just having a short month in COSLI has shown me that we all need help sometimes, and everyone is there, as a big family. My father used to show me what it was like being on the Board of Education of my school district, I always found it so intriguing, and I wish to share what I have learned from my dad to COSLI. Additionally, being a part of the Student Board would make me want to inspire others so that they could also apply and continue the chain of inspiration. The Student Board isn't some false hope that if you need help, you won't get it. The Student Board is something that always is there to help and all, and I wish to be a part of the council."

"As being apart of the Inaugural trial, we can see a few challenges we faced as a team; of which I would like to address next year in order to avoid them. I believe that I am a distinct person; that my perspective, along with others, would make a contribution to COSLI. Factors, such as patience, and prioritizing subjects, along with utilizing our time, is an important skill that I deem necessary as a leader. I also feel quite passionate about identifying myself as both a leader and an ambassador for COSLI."

"I want to start off by thanking you for this amazing opportunity. Through COSLI, I was able to experience things I wouldn't have been able to by myself. As the month went by, my thoughts came to one conclusion; I need to do more with this life-changing program. The news that new members for the COSLI board are needed sparked something inside of me. The board would give the chance to show my true colors as a leader. The mission COSLI is striving to accomplish really resides in me. I want to be more in my community, more in my country, more in my world. My dream is to prove to all of the people that don't believe in my generation that we are growing into something spectacular. We are the future of the planet. I strongly believe that COSLI is the key for students, like me, to become more than anyone else can. I know that I can be that for the Colorado Student Leaders Institute. Having experience as a Student Ambassador, I can lead the board in anything they need help with. I can approach any subject with an open mind."

"Over the course of the Colorado Student Leaders Institute, my life has been radically transformed. I have learned more about myself, connected with amazing friends, and discovered new avenues and ideas to pursue. Taking part in COSLI has been the most inspiring and educational month of my life, and I personally feel that I have grown as a student and a leader. I feel so humbled to be a part of this program, and I only hope that many more students, for years to come, get to experience the education and opportunities it has to offer. I would like to be on the student board completely regardless of how this program looks on a resume or college application. I sincerely want to stay connected to COSLI and contribute to its advancement and expansion because I think it is an amazing opportunity for the education and development of leaders. I have been involved with many different leadership positions, but I truly think that I can have an impact through COSLI. I would be a good fit for the Student Board because of my past involvement with leadership positions, dedication to the future students of COSLI, and heartfelt love and appreciation for this program. I can honestly say that I will be dedicated to the improvement of our institute. Thank you for everything you have done to make COSLI a reality."

"The COSLI Student Leadership Board should be run by the people who have developed leadership skills, people who are informed about present day social issues, and people who want to make a change within their communities. I strongly believe that I have many leadership skills that would make me a great contribution to the COSLI Student Leadership Board, in a matter of 28 days this program has changed me both on a personal level and it has made my want to strive for more when it comes to my education. Thanks to all the guest speakers we had over the time we were here I was able to understand that no matter what you want in life, as long as you set your mind to it, you will achieve it. I know that if I continue to be a part of the COSLI program, many big doors will open for me, and I will make it my job to give the same opportunities that I am getting to other kids throughout the state. Thank you for reading this, and I hope you take into consideration some of the many reasons why I want to be a part of the leadership board."

"My whole life people have told me, "the apple doesn't fall far from the tree". My parents' actions weighed heavy on my shoulders as I had to decide who I wanted to be. I could follow in their steps and become a dropout and a drug addict, or I could learn from their mistakes. I have worked every day to shake off the legacy my parents have left for me and to become someone I am proud to be. When my mom first went to jail I thought my life was over and I would never be anything more. I lost hope. This program has restored my hope in myself, shown me that no matter your upbringing, you can succeed. I want to instill that hope in other kids who come from situations like mine. I want to show them that you can be homeless, the daughter of two addicts and a first generation, and still succeed. This program has prepared me for college and restored my passion for learning that I wasn't aware that I lost. COSLI is a program of hope, dreams and success. COSLI is a program I want to be a member of for a very long time. I would be honored to be on the board to show that sometimes the apple can fall very far from the tree."

"I believe I should be a part of the board for the Colorado Student Leadership Institute due to the fact that I can make a contribution to the board towards future students. As being apart of the Inaugural trial, we can see a few challenges we faced as a team; of which I would like to address next year in order to avoid them. I believe that I am a distinct person; that my perspective, along with others, would make a contribution to COSLI. Factors, such as patience, and prioritizing subjects, along with utilizing our time, is an important skill that I deem necessary as a leader. I also feel quite passionate about identifying myself as both a leader and an ambassadress for COSLI."

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"To begin, I believe that I can apply my knowledge and background time spent being a leader to the Student Board. I know what it takes to be a main leader on such an important board, making decisions that could affect either a small portion of people, or widely affect the whole program. Helping others and making sure they are on the right track is something that I find very passionate, because everyone deserves someone that will help them. Just having a short month in COSLI has shown me that we all need help sometimes, and everyone is there, as a big family. My father used to show me what it was like being on the Board of Education of my school district, I always found it so intriguing, and I wish to share what I have learned from my dad to COSLI. Additionally, being a part of the Student Board would make me want to inspire others so that they could also apply and continue the chain of inspiration. The Student Board isn't some false hope that if you need help, you won't get it. The Student Board is something that always is there to help and all, and I wish to be a part of the council. I believe deeply that I should be viewed as a member of the board, so I may apply what I know and learn something new from the board. Clearly, I hope you take my time into consideration and consider me for a position on the board as a leader and as a mentor."

"As you know, I live in a tiny town - a place where opportunity is scarce. I need to literally reach for the stars if I want to open doors and to make my dreams come into fruition. I don't believe in waiting around for luck, fate, or chance; so when I was accepted into COSLI, it felt like everything was lining up perfectly. I've learned, questioned, and experienced so much from the program, my dreams got bigger and my hunger for success and service got wider. I plan to go back home with all sorts of meetings, startups, you name it, I'll be doing it. My future may seem like a mess, but my immediate plan and aspiration is set: to earn a position on the COSLI board. I will always be willing to dedicate time, be an advocating voice, and make sacrifices to help the program. I am able to come up with new ideas for the next session, in addition to adding my voice to the debates about this month. Although I may be overly honest at times, I am always acting with compassion and logic. Finally, I have never been so passionate about a program as I am about COSLI, this past month has been one of the best ever and I want to be more involved. Thank you for all you have done and I hope you seriously consider my application."

"Based on my actions, work ethic, and potential, I feel that I would be a great addition to the COSLI student leadership board. When help was needed, I stepped in because I truly care about the success of this program. I am dedicated to COSLI because it has opened my eyes and mind; I would like to see this program grow so that it can do the same for others. I am also a leader in my community through community service organizations such as Interact and National Honor Society. Overall, I want to see this program continue to flourish because it's a great opportunity that all future leaders should have. If I was a member of the COSLI student leadership board, I would contribute innovative ideas and solutions to further the success of COSLI for years to come."

"I think that I would be a great candidate for the board because I believe in excellence and I want nothing else but to see COSLI be successful. I am a very motivated young woman, and I want to see our state thrive. I would like to be permanently involved in the very thing that taught me how to make a difference and want different. My mom always tells me that if I could let my story be told, that I could change so many things around me, and I think that this is a great opportunity to do so; not just for me, but for the generations after me. It really is something that I want to be a part of and I want to be able to tell my sisters about it too. I want to be a support system for others and also give back to you. You have done so much, and I know it technically is a privilege for me, but I also feel an obligation to you to make sure that everything that this first generation of Colorado kids can honor and respect it as much as

I do. Thank you so much for everything you have done to make this experience beneficial and I hope to continue working with you.”

“I think I should be on the student board because this program really changed my life. All my life I grew up thinking my homeless background was all I could be. I thought that I was just going to be limited. I cried for a long while about the fact I got in because I wasn't ever the smartest, I was bullied, and I always let my dad down. I'm doing this for my dad. I need to succeed for him not for myself. I want to be on the student board to help other people change their lives onto a path of success. I've always seen myself as a natural leader, and I want to lead others into the next passages of their lives just like you and others helped me reach the next stage of my life when I was terrified.”

“First off I'd like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to be a candidate for the student board. I would be a good choice because I'm a natural born leader, I've been playing sports my entire life, I'm apart of the student council at my school, and I'm also a part of our LINK crew (also known as freshman academy.) I communicate with others very well. I love helping others, caring for others, and spreading happiness and positivity. I'd love to stay connected with the COSLI family after this month and being apart of the student board would give me a great opportunity to do so.”

“I want to help our student board grow as a group and help find opportunities for us to learn how to apply our skills to the best of our abilities. I can help contribute to this board because I am good at networking, and willing to put in my time to help this group accomplish goals that we will set. I am responsible and can help manage and encourage all of us to put together our skills and use them. I also am a big advocate of having fun. Being a part of this board, I would want to encourage hard work but I will also encourage having fun, because fun is one of the most important factors when it comes to bringing this group closer together and learning to work together.”

“I think I should be in the COSLI Leadership board because I had just a great experience that I want other kids to have the same or even better than that I had. I would be a great leader because I can work with a big group of people and come to an agreement in hard situations. It would be a great experience for me to be part of something big. It would be a one life time thing. Since I had a great time here at COSLI I would love to spend an other year with all of the board.”

“I believe I would be a very good addition to the student board because I strive to problem solve creatively and think of alternative solutions to daunting tasks. I don't give up and I want to do my very best in all I am asked to do. I believe I am a good listener and mediator. I am an extrovert who enjoys meeting new people and being put outside my comfort zone. I believe I work well with many different types of people and can be a fair leader.”

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leadership positions, but I truly think that I can have an impact through COSLI. I would be a good fit for the Student Board because of my past involvement with leadership positions, dedication to the future students of COSLI, and heartfelt love and appreciation for this program. I can honestly say that I will be dedicated to the improvement of our institute. Thank you for everything you have done to make COSLI a reality."

"First of all, I want to thank you for everything that you have done for me so far before and during this program, and what you will continue to do for me after this program is over. I am truly and eternally grateful for what you have done for my fellow peers and I. I believe that I should be part of the Student Board for a number of reasons. One major reason is that I am very outgoing and I like to get to know those around me. Another reason is that I want to help you and Kayla in any way possible and I will take being on the board with full responsibility. I want to be fully involved with COSLI after I leave and be able to input my own thoughts and opinions to help future generations of COSLI students. I would really appreciate it if you would consider me to be a member of COSLI's student board. Thank you."

"I have gained many leadership skills from COSLI that I would like to use in the Student Advisory Board. COSLI has done many wonderful things for me and I would love to inform others of this program. Also, being able to help and give back to COSLI would be amazing. I feel like the four weeks we had, were not enough. Not many have the opportunity to help future leaders and I know I could be a great help in advocating, organizing, helping others grow as one and as a group."

"This past month at COSLI has been an incredible experience and I want to continue my involvement. Being on the board will be a great opportunity because I want to help improve COSLI for future students and to become a better leader. Since I have gone through the program I can give suggestions of improvement. I know what has worked for me and what I didn't like, so being on the board will give me a chance to help grow the program. This program has taught me see both sides of an issue, so I can make my own decision based on facts not other people's opinions. Because of this, I want to help decide the topics of the speakers and who they are so the speaker can be the best."

Dear Celeste,

I would love to thank you for all the hours and dedication invested in COSLI. I understand the idea that it took a team, and that's true, but you were the catalyst to the dream that would come to fruition. I remember when we first met and you explained the mission and the goals to get there. I was excited for the first time in a while, I saw a unique opportunity to become a part of something that was larger than myself. I was extremely "nipped" to be accepted onto the board and someone with Colorado's best and brightest. COSLI was really the first time that I was exposed to details drastically opposed to my own and in turn allowed me to formulate a well informed opinion on hot issues all over the board. I fear that if not for being accepted and experiencing the initial weekend that I may have hurried out to be a closed minded bigot. I may have learned a lot through others, but you have really helped me grow as a sociable and well connected person. But it does not stop there, you have said and explained things that have really resonated and enlightened me to do research and further understand the higher importance of such topics. I am immensely proud to have met you when I did and to have a wonderful mentor with such compassion and Drive. It is truly inspiring. I know that you

are a very humble woman, but don't discredit the facts that you sacrificed, you persisted, you brought us together and you forever changed my life. Celeste you were the catalyst and COSLI is your baby. I would just like to suggest that when the sixth and seventh has passed rest, heal and take time for yourself, you most definitely deserve it. I love you and consider you one of my mothers. I will always be here whenever I am needed as I know you are for me. I am extremely glad I came and got to know so many bright individuals. Thank you for not letting me back out. Thank you for EVERYTHING, I am forever grateful. ♥

Sincerely your lit candle,

Isaac Carlos