

Scholarship Recommendation Form

Instructions: Thank you for being a recommender for the PCAFPD scholarship. Recommendations are used as part of the selection process. Please type your information below and provide a digital copy to the applicant for submission. Hand written responses will not be accepted.

Recommender Information

Name: Rachel Ann T. Galapon

Relationship to applicant: Former Division Learner

Government Adviser/Coordinator

Organization/School: DepEd SDO San Jose City

Email address: rachelann.galapon@deped.gov.ph

Applicant Information:

Name: Brenn Ashley Cabanayan

Current School: University of the Philippines –

Baguio (UPB)

Recommendation

I am writing to recommend **Brenn Ashley Cabanayan** for **PCAFFD Scholarship**. I have known Brenn for three (3) years as his DepEd San Jose City Division Youth Formation Coordinator and have been consistently impressed by his leadership skills and dedication to uphold learner's rights to be heard and to participate in decision making as learner representative in the education process.

Brenn has impressed upon me his servitude for the community, scoping from the halls of San Jose City National High School (SJCNHS) as the Student Council President, and extending to the whole Division of San Jose City as the Division Federation of Supreme Secondary Learner Government (DFSSLG) President. He has also contributed in his own ways for the proliferation of a more consolidated and competent youth civic engagement across the whole of Region 3, as the elected Auditor of the Regional Federation of Supreme Secondary Learner Government (RFSSLG).

SCHOOL-BASED

On the school-wide milieu, he was able to establish the **Students' Rights and Welfare (STRAW) Committee**, negotiate with the school administration for a more progressive and **gender-sensitive dress code**, and **formalize memoranda of agreement (MOA) across the thirty eight (38) barangays of San Jose City** for his Maka-Kalikasan Projects, Programs, and Activities (PPAs) as Student Council President.

Under his leadership, Brenn mobilized humanitarian financial assistance missions for students in need, such as those whose houses were caught aflame, or for victims of typhoons, or students

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experiencing medical emergencies. He was also incessantly searching for avenues to participate in decision-making and policy-lobbying, thus his position as a member of the highest policy-making of SJCNHS, the School Governance Council (SGC), along with faculty, staff, and barangay stakeholders.

CITY-WIDE

As president of the DFSSLG, Brenn united the federated student council of SDO San Jose City in linking arms and joining the fight against sexual harassment. He published a **Students' Rights Manifesto** at the end of his term as a basis for future governance.

On a city-wide scope, Brenn pushed for the **collaboration of the eleven (11) constituent public high schools** of the Schools Division Office (SDO) of San Jose City, gave an online orientation and planning of the DFSSLG's General Plan of Action (GPOA), and materialize an **anti-violence against women and children (anti-VAWC) paralegal caravan** throughout the city's public high schools in partnership with Project GROWL.

As the **Little City Vice Mayor** during the Linggo ng Kabataan Celebration, Brenn proposed and passed city resolutions concerning the creation of a **San Jose City People's Council**, the creation of a **City Journalists' League**, and the initiation of a **Feasibility Study for a Special Education (SpEd) Program for Secondary Schools** in San Jose City.

As the **Philippines' Youth Ambassador of the Kankanaey tribe for the Global Peace Foundation**, Brenn along with his peers campaigned for the rights of the indigenous peoples (IPs) in San Jose City to their ancestral land, amidst threats of dislocation and land-grabs by multinational corporations.

His reputation inextricably precedes him as a reliable and capable leader – one who is unfazed to speak truth to power, and exhausts all possible avenues to push his constituents' demands to the limelight. This much is true, and has been proven when he was renowned as the **Most Outstanding Student Leader of SDO San Jose City, S.Y. 2023-2024**. Many other institutions recognize his efforts to echo the democratic interests of the studentry, as he also garnered the **Stakeholders' Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP) Leadership Award**, given to a select few students whose characters are worth emulating.

REGION-WIDE

As the elected **Auditor** of the **Regional Federation of Supreme Secondary Learner Government** (RFSSLG), Brenn was also the principal author of region-wide resolutions for the SSLG, and was one among the student-leaders of Central Luzon that culminated region-wide campaign efforts towards students' rights during the **Regional Learners' Convergence** – an event that thrusts the calls for climate justice and for more competent youth governance.

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ACADEMIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

As for his academic inclinations, his awards are proof of his unwavering perseverance and inquisitive nature as an intellectual from the academe. Brenn graduated **With Highest Honors, garnering a general weighted average (GWA) of 99%**, ranking first in his batch for the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) strand. Some of his other academic awards include: **Outstanding Performance in Science, Outstanding Performance in Mathematics, Outstanding Performance in Social Sciences, Outstanding Performance in Communication Arts, Outstanding Performance in Arts, Award in Club or Organization, Leadership Awardee, Good Conduct Award, and Award for Work Immersion.**

As an active participant of extra-curricular competitions, Brenn has qualified for the nationwide AMA Brain Olympiads Quarterfinals, the Regional Festival of Talents: STEMazing, as well as the Division Schools Press Conference (DSPC) as an editorial writer.

THE FUTURE

Brenn has proven himself countless times as a competent leader and an asset to his community. And I am sure, as an Iskolar ng Bayan studying economics at the University of the Philippines – Baguio (UPB), that he will one day use his accrued intellectual capital and refurbished leadership skills to contribute more for the community and give back to the stakeholders that rallied behind him in support of his campaigns.

His sharp critical-thinking skills and passion for the welfare of the downtrodden sectors compels to believe that his later work as an economist will propel him to push for socioeconomic policies and projects that, foremost, prioritize the people. Despite of financial constraints, Brenn has never fallen short in creating ripple effects for the ameliorating of his community. This, I think, is what truly makes Brenn an outstanding student leader, and makes him worthy to be a recipient of the Peace Corps Alumni Foundation for Philippine Development (PCAFPD) Scholarship.

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