



NEWS RELEASE

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The City of Aberdeen selects Cristal Ramirez Garcia as AWC Center for Quality Communities scholarship nominee

ABERDEEN, WASH. - The City of Aberdeen, in partnership with Aberdeen High School, is excited to announce that Cristal Ramirez Garcia is the city's selection as the nominee of the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) Center for Quality Communities (CQC) scholarship. The scholarship is available through a statewide competitive process for high school seniors who are active in leadership in their city government, community, or school and plan to pursue post-secondary education in fall 2024. Each city can submit one nominee they believe, not only meets the criteria for the scholarship, but also demonstrates a strong academic history, shows a commitment to our community through service and volunteerism, and exhibits a desire to use their college degree to make their community and the world a better place. Those nominees' names will be submitted to the AWC CQC Scholarship Selection Committee who will select three winners of their \$3,000 scholarship.

Cristal is a senior at Aberdeen High School who would like to earn her bachelor's degree in elementary education. She is inspired to teach because of the wonderful experience she had in Aberdeen schools as a young child where teachers and staff went above and beyond to help her succeed. "I appreciate what they have done for me, and I hope to be able to repay them one day," she stated in her application.

Cristal is currently enrolled in several Advance Placement courses and numerous school activities that help other students in various ways including a program for incoming Freshmen succeed in high school. She is also a tutor through the YMCA where she helps elementary students with their work—a great way to prepare for her future.

"Here in Aberdeen, we know what it is like to never give up on a dream," said Mayor Douglas Orr. "Our children have learned this resilience, and I think Cristal is the perfect example of that."

Cristal was selected from a pool of highly qualified AHS seniors and will qualify for a \$3,000 scholarship and an opportunity to attend AWC's Annual Conference in Vancouver, Washington in June. She will be competing against nominees from other cities. The AWC CQC Scholarship Selection Committee will make their selection in March and will make an announcement in April.

The AWC Center for Quality Communities is a 501(c)(3) partner with the nonprofit Association of Washington Cities. The Center's goal is to help residents understand the important role cities and towns play in Washington and to grow leaders and healthy, resilient quality communities. The Center promotes municipal leadership development and civic engagement and works to support students who demonstrate community leadership and commitment to their city.

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