



DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA 93106-9430
(805) 893-3118 FAX (805) 893-3324

October 3, 2014

Re: Nathan Alamillo

Dear Madam/Sir:

It is a great pleasure to write in behalf of Nathan Alamillo, who is applying for your graduate program in Public Health. I have known Nathan for about three years, during which time he took three courses from me (Soc 152A, B, and C—a sequence of courses about the science of human sexuality), earning “A” grades in all of them. He has excelled in a broad range of courses here at UCSB and has earned a 3.91 GPA. His long-term goals are to do outstanding work in Public Health—and eventually a PhD in that area.

I first came to know Nathan when he did such an outstanding job in my large lecture class (Soc 152A) that I invited him to be in the honors course (Soc 152B) that I hold the next quarter for the very best students in the prior quarter. It was in the honors class that I first came to know Nathan well and to respect his intelligence, integrity and deep concern for humanity. This small class is a discussion class and Nathan made many intelligent and creative contributions. I got to see Nathan thinking “on his feet,” and was very impressed with how quickly he formulates ideas and expresses them clearly.

After that quarter, I asked Nathan to be one of the web writers for Soc 152C, which is a small class that writes material and code for the UCSB-hosted website called SexInfo (www.SexInfoOnLine.com). Nathan made countless creative contributions to the site, while bringing lots of good ideas to the brainstorming sessions that we have in class.

Nathan has been a research assistant for several professors on campus and has developed advanced his analytical skills. He has become especially involved with Dr. Victor Rios’s study of Hispanic gangs in the Santa Barbara area. He is involved in a program that reaches out to “at hope” youth and shares valuable knowledge and skills related to drug use, parenthood and crime-related activities. He is changing lives and he loves it. He was born in Mexico and acculturated beautifully to life in the United States. He grew up in a crime-ridden inner city and has seen countless problems endemic to such environments. Since many of those issues can be resolved by public health experts, he set his goal early on Public Health as a career. He knows that many people struggle with the problems of poor communities, but he has seen many examples of success in face of hardship. Thus he knows that people can seek to improve themselves and

accomplish more than others might think possible for them. He wants to contribute to the successes of all peoples he can.

Nathan has worked with the UCSB Health and Wellness Program on campus to reach out to freshmen, students in the dorms, and students who live off campus with positive messages and skills relevant to drugs and alcohol. He is proud of the rapidity with which he has developed skills at presenting health-oriented materials to many different groups of students, and he loves the immediate rewards these programs are providing for him.

Nathan is quite skillful in his use of both English and Spanish, in both spoken and written forms. He has a mature and gentle tone of voice that communicates volumes about his personality. He is a cheerful, outgoing person, leading people to like him and enjoy working with him. Nathan loves working with other people and he is one of the most diligent people you could hope to know. He genuinely cares about understanding other people's needs, thoughts and feelings—along with helping them in any way he can.

I hope it is abundantly clear that Nathan is an exceptional person. He stands out among his peers as a very serious and honest individual who has used his years at the university and in various jobs extremely effectively. Nathan earns my highest recommendation for your summer internship program. He will be out-standing in the field of public health and will make many contributions in his lifetime. If I can be of any further help, please do not hesitate to phone me at (805) 967-4995.

Sincerely,

John D. Baldwin
Professor
baldwin@soc.ucsb.edu