

To the Bid Review Committee Regarding Karina Granda:

This letter is to give you my enthusiastic support of Karina Granda as a candidate for your First Year Experience Award. I have come to know Karina through being her hall council advisor at New York University for the 2007-2008 academic year. It has been a true pleasure for me to work with and get to know her personally during this time.

I have witnessed Karina make a significant impact on the lives of her fellow community members through her service as our hall council's Community Service Committee Chair. In this role, Karina is charged with developing a strong community that values and embraces service to others. She has done so successfully through developing strong programs that have addressed various local, global, political, and social justice issues. Through her service in this position, Karina has developed and/or enhanced her own skills in the areas of time management, program development/implementation, ethical decision-making, crisis-response, professionalism, and personal communication.

As a hall leader of mine, I take a strong interest in Karina's academic success and pursuits. Karina is a very dedicated and hard working student who has maintained high standards for herself as it relates to her academic performance. She has managed to remain a diligent and productive scholar while at the same time balancing her Hall Council responsibilities and performing the functions of her role in our community very well. Karina has been instrumental in planning, organizing, and executing some very successful programs for our community. The community-building efforts of our hall were tremendously successful due in large part to Karina's creativity and self-initiative to always go above-and-beyond.

In the time that I have worked with Karina, it has been quite thrilling to observe her willingness to actualize her potential. Karina is highly reflective and is always looking to augment her abilities through seeking honest feedback and making adjustments as necessary. Her self-awareness lends to her being able to serve others with a confidence tempered with humility and integrity. She is the epitome of a "team player;" she has earned the respect and admiration of her peers by being very relatable and outgoing, as well as by always following through on her commitments. Karina can always be counted on to produce work of the highest quality.

It excites me to see Karina being honored by her peers with this nomination. She has operated with a servant's heart all year long and has impacted many NYU students in positive ways; it's refreshing to see them respond in-kind to her. So many times in these letters, the overused adjectives seem trite and meaningless. However, I cannot commend the leadership ability and academic potential I see in Karina highly enough. She is not bound by what others might view as insignificant tasks. She accepts the job ahead with enthusiasm and devotion to complete it. She is courteous and respectful of everyone with whom she works. She absorbs every situation as an opportunity to serve others and for personal growth.

So, with unwavering support and personal approval, I offer my recommendation for your endorsement Karina Granda for the First Year Experience Award. I would be most willing to speak specifically to any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Ty Crisman
Community Development Educator
New York University
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New York University
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Gallatin School of Individualized Study
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New York, NY 10003
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February 13, 2008

To whom it may concern:

This letter is to confirm that Gallatin student Karina Granda, N14243578, is currently in Academic Good Standing.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at (212) 998-7320 or john.lang@nyu.edu.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Lang".

John Lang
Director of Academic Advising

Being My Own Sculptor

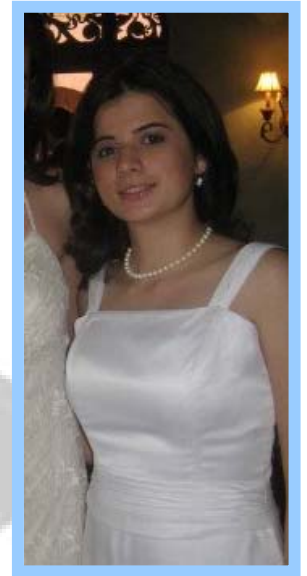
I came to NYU with the idea that I wanted to be fully invested in my community. I wanted to not only participate in clubs and activities, but I wanted to bring my own ideas to life as well. Within my hall I have found a group of people that are just as captivated as I am by the arts, writing, and politics. Most of all I have found a group of people interested in creating change. I was inspired by the enthusiasm that I saw, and that is what motivated me to run for the Community Service Chair on our Hall Council. Through this organization, I have made a consistent effort to bring a variety of service opportunities to Goddard. I have collaborated with other members in other hall programs. I have taken the opportunity to attend several conferences and workshops where I have learned much about how to develop good programs and what it means to be an effective leader. Finally, I have become involved in NYU clubs and service activities outside of the Residential College. In doing so, I have met some incredible people who are working for great causes and making great changes in the community. By both participating and planning, observing and taking charge, I have grown much as learner and as a leader.

Through my continuous efforts to enhance the college experience for my peers and myself, I have significantly evolved as a leader. I have learned new ways to interact with individuals, new ways to position a program, and new ways to motivate myself and my peers as I have learned about myself. My involvement on the Goddard Hall Council has been such a fulfilling experience that I am certain that I will be attempting to regain this experience next year as the Community Service Chair of the Inter-Residence Hall Council. I feel that my motivation to promote change and instill awareness on a macro scale is exactly what New York University needs. Students often complain about becoming jaded by the life of the city and I want to bring them back into the reality of caring about global issues. I can, am determined to, and will make NYU a better place to live by helping to create a community that cares.

Karina Granda
Community Service Chair
Goddard Residential Hall
New York University

THE DESIGN PROCESS

It takes sculptors years of hard work and labor in their pursuit to encompass characteristics like beauty and athleticism in their works of art. Although most would agree that Karina Granda also encompasses these traits, it is not what her sculptor, herself, is dedicated to capture. In the past, her experiences have sculpted and molded her into the person she is, but with that, she has now taken on the ability to sculpt her own future, along with the traits of those around her. Her high school experience as class president and facilitator in the Breakthrough to College Program began expressing the leadership qualities that have ultimately defined the person Karina is today.



ROUGHING OUT THE FORM: TRANSITIONING TO COLLEGE

High school taught Karina that as she works towards making herself an improved leader, others also evolved. This insight motivated Karina to increase her involvement at NYU through a variety of organizations, attending conferences, and hosting her own programs. Collectively, these experiences have had a fundamental impact on her personal perspectives and leadership abilities. Furthermore, the sight of Karina at these events has inspired others to get involved.

CASTING A FOUNDATION: LIFE AT GODDARD HALL



2007 marked the first year of NYU's residential college system. The freshman residential college, Goddard, with its unique programming focused on building a tight-knit, dynamic and learning environment, sparked Karina's interest. Goddard goes beyond the traditional classroom and residential experience through its unique programming, service, and student/faculty dialogues. Blessed with the joys of New York City, programs include trips in and around the city, famous guest speakers, and service projects that make a real difference. Both Karina and the other Goddardites embarked on a rewarding journey on move in day, and Karina wished to give back to her new found home.

CARVING A NICHE: ELECTED COMMUNITY SERVICE CHAIR ON EXECUTIVE BOARD

Amid the confusion of first classes, new friends, and exciting Welcome Week programming, Karina successfully launched a compelling campaign to be a member of the Goddard Hall Council, specifically the Community Service Chair. The Goddard Hall Council oversees programming for 220 residents, and although Goddard is the smallest first-year residence, it arguably has the most heart. At the Inter-Residence Hall Council's semi-annual student leadership conference, TORCH Day, Karina actively reached out to her peers from other halls to establish relationships. Programs, like "The Arch Cup," a

series of competitions between two halls located around Washington Square Park, are the direct result of Karina's networking.

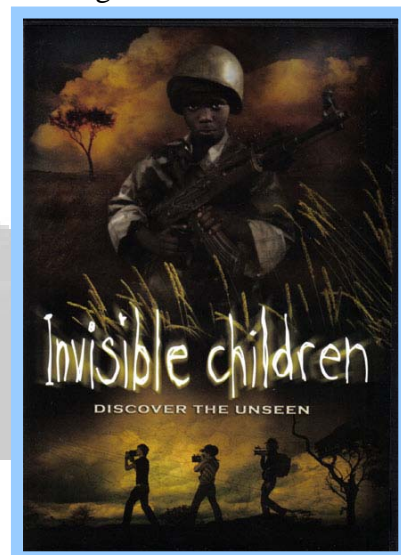
How does Karina motivate her fellow residents? Residents are kept satisfied with a constant stream of events through Residential College programming and hall council programming. For instance, Karina and programming chair Ben Cohen collaborated on *Halloween Extravaganza @ Goddard Hall*. This program turned Goddard Hall into a haunted house for kindergarteners where each floor had a different theme. Karina's floor was a Haunted Castle, complete with a moat, gated entry, and a three-dimensional dragon. Goddard's residents were pleased with the results, and one child even remarked that "this is even better than trick-or-treating."



To increase pride in their hall, Karina co-captained a team of 25 Goddardites in FYRE (First Year Residential Experience) Olympics, a competition between all first year residence halls in the likes of such events as Guitar Hero, Name that Tune, and Tug o' War. Despite Goddard's size and limited budget, Karina led a movement to tie-dye t-shirts and create a banner from recycled material; the Goddard team won 1st place in the banner and 2nd place overall at the event. With this victory and the many great programs the e-council offered, Goddard's residents were motivated to make their tiny hall heard throughout the NYU community.

CEMENTING HER PRESENCE: COMMUNITY SERVICE CHAIR ACHIEVEMENTS

While remaining actively involved in planning and executing the e-council's programs and initiatives, Karina passionately pursues a variety of programs to encourage a mindset for community service in Goddard Hall. She exclaims that she did not want to "only plan activities where residents would simply package goods or sign letters, but to plan programs which would raise awareness about important human rights issues." Motivated by the apparent lack of knowledge and general concern about global issues, Karina instituted *Awareness Wednesdays*. On the first Wednesday of every month, Karina facilitates programs featuring a film or documentary about an important global issue. After these programs, Karina challenges those in attendance to take it upon themselves to make a change. Featured films include *Dark Days*, a story about of homeless men that



have made their home behind the tracks of Penn Station, and *Paradise Now*, a film showing an interesting perspective on the lives of suicide bombers. However, her *Invisible Children* initiative, an effort to raise awareness about child soldiers in Uganda during October, engendered the most support for an issue. After viewing the movie, inspired residents wrote over 60 letters to United States Senators urging them to support the “Child Soldier Protection Act” – a bill to prevent the US from funding countries that condone the use of child soldiers. Karina also led a fundraising effort for *Invisible Children* called *Invisible Children Campaign @ Goddard*. Through the sale of t-shirts, this initiative raised over \$340. *Awareness Wednesdays* is a tremendous success by drawing over 25 residents, 25 residents that leave the programs informed, 25 residents that leave the programs motivated to make the necessary changes. While *Awareness Wednesdays* showcases global issues, Karina has also led awareness programs for both national and local issues. In October, she led a team of 23 residents in the *Step Out to Fight Diabetes* walk. Karina with the help of the Community Service Committee organized a residence hall raffle, raising over \$420 for the American Diabetes Association. Karina also organized a clean-up of Washington Square Park. Over 20 residents volunteered for two hours to make the neighborhood and the center of NYU’s campus a bit nicer and enjoyable for everyone. Finally, Karina also arranged the adoption of three platoons stationed in Iraq and Afghanistan. Goddard’s residents collected goods specific to each platoon’s needs and wrote letters for the troops.



Although her position does not specifically require her to attend, Karina actively comes to weekly Inter-Residence Hall Council General Assemblies and National Residence Hall Honorary meetings. Her volunteered involvement has led to significant improvements within each organization. Within the IRHC, she has teamed up with the community service chair, James Castiglioni, in an effort to establish a campus wide program called Adopt an

Organization. Each hall “adopts” a service organization within the city and sends a few volunteers on a monthly basis. Specifically, Karina has set up a relationship with the NYC Rescue Mission, the oldest acting shelter within the country and has lead delegations from Goddard on the 20 block community to volunteer in the kitchen. Karina’s programs not only encourage volunteerism, they encourage awareness and education on these issues. As a result of her own and collaborative programming, NYU students are progressively becoming well-educated on the issues that detrimentally affect their local and world communities.

MOLDING HER INTELLECT: CONFERENCES

Karina also attended several self-improving conferences throughout the year. As mentioned before, Karina attended the IRHC's TORCH day conference for the fall and spring semesters as a delegate from Goddard. The IRHC takes great pride in educating NYU's student leaders on innovative and practical ways to lead, motivate, and improve residential life. For example, Karina was given simple and practical ways to develop sustained community service efforts from the IRHC's Community Service Chair during the fall conference. This has led to her success at building service programs at her own hall, like *Awareness Wednesdays*, *Step out to Fight Diabetes*, and *Race to Deliver*.



Following TORCH Day Fall, Karina attended The Next Step Retreat that was hosted by NYU's Residential Education. Through leadership and diversity training, Karina was involved in a series of social justice programs over the course of two days in upstate New York. Through this education on social justice, Karina has been able to incorporate this knowledge into her programs such as *Awareness*

Wednesdays. Karina has also been a participant of the Gates Millennium Scholarship Leadership Conference in the Fall of 2007. This conference, in conjunction with her being a Gates Millennium Scholar, has exposed her to a number of leaders at other universities, exposure which has helped her improve as a leader through bouncing ideas back and forth with what works and what does not.

MODELING FOR FUTURE SUCCESS

The breadth and variety of Karina's experiences has sculpted her into the wonderful person that she is today. However, as alluded to before, her model is not complete, but will remain ever changing from her life experiences. Life is perpetually refining her mind. Although Karina may never be perfect, she can, and is motivated to continue her journey towards becoming a better leader.

To continue her growth and maturation from a great leader into an even better one, Karina plans to experience many new things in the coming years of her college education. From her extensive experience with programming, specifically service minded programming, she knows what works and what does not, and continues to improve on an already successful program model. Over the next few months, Karina has a number of programming ideas for Relay for Life. As she enters her sophomore year, Karina plans to remain influential in student affairs through continued participation in the Residential College at Broome Street as well as run for an IRHC executive board

position. As she continues this journey through life's experiences and moldings, she remains vigilant for new knowledge and goals to strive for.

PATINA: APPLYING THE FINISHING SURFACE

Moving towards the end of her first year experience, Karina's statue illustrates the seemingly intangible characteristics of a strong leader. Friends and classmates alike describe her with words like passionate, innovative, dedicated, organized, and vibrant. They exclaim that Karina is "a committed individual who is truly passionate about serving the community and probably one of the most involved people in the community who works hard to program events for everyone." Her programming, personality, and overall character drive her peers to indulge in the same passion for excellence that she herself exudes. Like her own sculptor, she also molds her developing peer's minds into conscious, aware entities. Anand Raghu, her fellow first year and executive council member, says it best. "Karina is a model first year student. Her passionate attitude rubs off on everyone; we all have a new found appreciation for community service. Her enthusiasm serves to be quite inspirational and motivating." Karina Granda, therefore, is a person built from her experience, and will continue to strive forward to achieve excellence in all of her activities while positively influencing the peers around her.

Moving towards the end of her first year experience, Karina's statue illustrates the intangible characteristics of a strong leader. Those who know her describe her as passionate, innovative, dedicated, organized and vibrant. They exclaim that she is "a committed individual who is truly passionate about serving the community and one of the most involved to coordinate events that benefit everyone." Her programming, upbeat and positive personality, and overall character drivers her peers to share in the same passion for excellence that she exudes. It is because of those traits that she has become influential in sculpting the models of those who come into contact with her. She aids in their experiences and personally ensures that they actualize their own potential. Essentially, she "is a model first year student," her fellow e-council member, Anand Raghu claims, "her positive attitude rubs off on everyone; we all have a new found appreciate for community service. Her enthusiasm serves to be quite inspirational and motivating." Although Karina Granda is a model of her experiences, a person who will never quit striving to achieve excellence and improvement, the most admirable thing about Karina is her altruistic passion to help others continue to sculpt their own lives.



Karina M. Granda

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(305) 905-3393 • kmg360@nyu.edu

EDUCATION

New York University, Gallatin School

B.A. Individualized Study, May 2011
Concentration: Visual Arts and Literature
Honors: National Residence Hall Honorary (NRHH)

New York, NY
Overall GPA: 3.93
Scholarship: Gates Millennium Scholarship

Carrollston School of the Sacred Heart

HS Diploma, May 2007
Activities: Editor-in-chief of Newspaper, Co-Editor of Literary Magazine, Sophomore Class President, Robotics Team
Varsity Swimming, Junior Engineering Technology Society, Amnesty International
Honors: National Honor Society, English National Honor Society, Spanish National Honor Society

Miami, FL
Class Rank: Top 5% / GPA: 4.23

LEADERSHIP & EXPERIENCE

Goddard Hall Council - NYU

Fall 2007 – Present

Community Service Chair

- Attend weekly Hall Council and Inter-Residence Hall Council meetings
- Facilitate Community Service Committee Meetings and delegate tasks to members
- Co-Captained Goddard's FYRE (First Year Residential Experience) Olympics team
- Coordinator of several hall-wide programs/events
 - Awareness Wednesdays: Monthly film awareness program
 - Invisible Children Campaign @ Goddard, raised \$340
 - Step Out to Fight Diabetes walk, raised \$420
 - Halloween Extravaganza @Goddard Hall
 - Washington Square Park Clean-Up
 - Do Something Sweet: Candy bag giveaway during finals
 - Care Package Drive: Adopted 3 platoons

DKMS Club- NYU

Fall 2007 – Present

German National Marrow Donor Program

- Plan fundraising events for the program by tabling and selling Valentine's Day favors
- Participated in drive that collected cheek swab tests from potential donors

English and Dramatic Literature Organization – NYU

Fall 2007 – Present

- Developed greater appreciation of the arts by attending literary movie showings and poetry readings
- Enhanced writing skills by participating in a peer editing process with upperclassmen

Breakthrough Collaborative - Miami

2006-Present

- Launched first ever Robotics branch of Breakthrough to College Program
- Successfully organized six week class called "Masters of Modern Art"

CONFERENCES

Gates Millennium Scholarship Leadership Conference

Fall 2007

Fairfax, VA

- Experienced programs on diversity, higher education, mentorship, and leadership
- Networked with current and former Gates Millennium Scholars

The Next Step (Diversity and Leadership Retreat)

Fall 2007

New York

- Explored issues relating to social justice
- Discovered ways to create awareness and improve these issues

TORCH Day (Residence Leadership Conference)

Fall 2007, Spring 2008

New York, NY

- Participated in workshops geared to successful leadership and programming
- Networked with student leaders across campus

OTHER

Interests: Movies, Reading, Camping, Swimming and Jet Skiing
Computer: Proficient in Excel, Word, Powerpoint and Outlook