

To Whom it May Concern,

I would recommend the Beyond Borders program to any student from any background, whether their interest is business, arts, or science, because each and every student can gain so incredibly much from doing this program. The skills that a student gains from Beyond Borders prepares them for any future they may choose to pursue. This program absolutely must continue to be offered for students, as it is truly an educational experience unmatched by any other.

Beyond Borders has offered myself and my peers the experiences of a lifetime. Through these experiences we have all seen tremendous growth in ourselves in terms of our time management abilities, our oral presentation skills, our writing abilities, our technology utilization, but most of all in our confidence. Every student in the program is able to see a clear development in their leadership ability over the course of just one short semester, which is an incredible feat. This program transforms the lives of students because it allows them to see education in a completely different light. It allows students to view their education as more than something that they are simply obligated to complete. It allows students to view their education as something that is exciting, inspiring, and most of all a powerful and meaningful piece in their journey to becoming a well rounded human being and member of society.

In addition to the leadership development and unique education I have gained from this program, I have gained beautiful friendships that have transformed my 47 classmates, into my 47 brothers and sisters. I believe that the bond that is made between each Beyond Borders class is transformative for students as it gives them a sense of belonging. I will forever be grateful for the memories I have made with the people I have grown to love the most through this program. Every student deserves to, and should have the opportunity to experience such beautiful connections.

I must add that the reason all of these wonderful things can be said about the program, is because of the incredible teachers. They are a team of individuals that care so much for their students' success, that it drives their students to achieve more than they could ever imagine. As Mike Pearse says, students don't care how much you know until they know how much you care. The teachers in this program demonstrate to the students each and every day how much they care for us, and it drives us to work as hard as we can to make them proud. The teachers work hard for the students, and the students work hard for the teachers, a level of respect that many students do not have the opportunity to experience in high school. This kind of teaching changes the lives of every student that goes through the program, and that is simply something that cannot be found anywhere else.

Beyond Borders is the accumulation of education of the highest standard, a teaching style that is truly unique, the most beautiful friendships, and life lessons that cannot be learned anywhere else. This program absolutely must continue to be offered for students, so it can continue to create students that are destined to make this world a better place.

Regards, Emily Kesteloot