

Resume

Chicago, Illinois | +1 (312) 982 5006 | avelez1@luc.edu

Education

Loyola University Chicago

August 2015 – May 2020

Bachelors in Special Education with K-12 endorsement
Minor in Social Work

Leadership and Service

Loyola University of Chicago School of Education's International Committee

Illinois, CHICAGO 2017- Present

Board Member – Higher Education Committee

- Support international students who are Loyola University graduate and undergraduate; by promoting international study abroad opportunities; as well as international mindedness in the school of education programs overall.

Chicago HOPES for Kids:

Illinois, CHICAGO 2016

Volunteer - Non-Governmental Organization

- Provide educational support and encouragement for children living in Chicago's homeless shelters.

Speak Up Program

San Jose, COSTA RICA 2013 - Present

Founder

- Created youth mentoring and self-advocacy program run by and for students with learning difficulties and/or ADD/ADHD

Feeding Souls

San Jose, COSTA RICA 2012 – Present

Founder

- Created innovative and sustainable way of helping the homeless and underprivileged community of Escazú, Costa Rica
- Secured monthly donations of food from Subway and Starbucks
- Created a program that facilitates homeless to leave the street, as well as quit substance abuse and then help them by providing job opportunities
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Experience

Country Day School

San Jose, COSTA RICA 2017

Student Assistant and Substitute teacher – K-12 School

- Worked in American International School in Preschool and Elementary classrooms as teacher assistant.
- Advocated and supported students with learning differences and behavioral problems.

High Lands Institute & Irish School

Rome, ITALY 2014 - 2015

Student Life Assistant - K-12 Schools in Italy

- Assisted students in their personal development by organizing extracurricular activities to encourage community growth and social justice outcomes.

Fundación Nutresa

Medellin, COLOMBIA 2012

Intern - Non-Governmental Organization

- Created concise summary of the organizations objectives, goals and views for online website
- Produced advertising materials for different events of the organization
- Interacted with the majority of Colombian foundations that aid underprivileged communities in nutritional and educational aspects

Fundación Sueños Por Colombia

Bolombolo, COLOMBIA 2010 – Present

Worker – Non-Governmental Organization

- Aided the Bolombolo community after destructive flood by constructing and rebuilding homes
- Organized Bolombolo's yearly town donation distribution
- Produced a census of the in risk families of the Bolombolo area
- Manufactured a sustainable project for source of employment for the senior citizens of the Bolombolo area

Awards and Skills

- Dean's List Loyola University Chicago Fall 2017
- Presidential Award for Leadership
- Fluent in both Spanish and English, advanced in Italian.
- Experience working with Orton Gillingham-based reading instruction and Assistive Technologies

Cover Letter

Dear Hiring Manager:

I respectfully address this letter to you upon learning about the internship opportunity available in Clearbrook. Currently, I am a sophomore at Loyola University of Chicago pursuing a major in Special Education with a K to 12 endorsements as well as a minor in Social Work. I would like to be considered for this internship since I consider myself a dedicated, ambitious, and reliable individual with a driven passion to help those in need especially those that are growing in their educational pathways.

Looking back on my life as a student, I always recall the time I spent in elementary school in Costa Rica. I remember feeling my heart crushed as I watched everyone reading and completing rapidly his or her writing assignments while I would hide in the playing area. I remember thinking that I was “not good for school”, and I did not know why until I was diagnosed with Dyslexia and ADHD. I still think about my dreadful routines during every recess, having to stay in class because I had not finished the assignment on time or because I had been called out on my “uncontrollable jittery behavior”. In my late middle school years one of my teacher’s learning styles helped me realize that I was able to actually learn something, that it was not that I was “not good for school” but instead that my school system was failing to teach me correctly. I began to question my school’s education system and felt the need to learn about ways to improve this faulted system. As my journey within this passion began, I realized that I was not the only student that suffered this equity. I pushed myself to learn beyond the knowledge my school had about LD and ADHD and was able to attend the International Dyslexia Association Reading and Learning Conference in Chicago as well as work and learn from Dyslexia specialists such as Steve Walker and Marc Hoffman. As I entered High School, my knowledge about the subject had grown and I was able to advocate for myself asking for accommodations, calling out on injustices and inequity. As my self-esteem, my grades and my passion for equity grew I realized that it was my obligation to help other students who were passing through my same struggles. My junior year I founded *The Speak Up Program*, a mentoring and self-advocacy program for students with learning differences and/or ADHD. Within this program, I was able to inform students about the importance of equity in our school as well introduced them to the powerful tool of self-advocating. Do to my dedication and ambition to create equity in my surroundings I was able to enter into the Honor Society and in senior year was given the Presidential Award for Leadership, both accomplishments which if I had been told in elementary I would achieve I would have never believed. Know as I pursue a career in higher education I have volunteered in Chicago HOPES in order to help those LD and ADHD students who have a smaller chance of being supported through out their educational journeys.

Today, I have learned to deal with my learning differences, and through education and advocacy, I am no longer a victim of injustice. However, there are those who are not as fortunate as I am. Therefore, it is my obligation to continue my work for those who find themselves victims of inequity, by providing support that can help them strive for a better life. This internship will give me that opportunity and will allow me to learn in a place where I can continue growing, while guiding my knowledge and enhancing the visions that I strongly promote and identify myself with.

I believe I would be a valuable asset to your organization and would love the opportunity to discuss this position with you at your convenience. Please find attached a copy of my resume for your review. Should you have any additional question, please feel free to contact me at: avelez1@luc.edu or (312) 982 5006. I thank you in advance for your time and consideration, and I look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Sincerely,

Amparo Velez Echavarria