

Daniel Aclan - A Step Forward Personal Statement

FSA is my foundation here in UCSC. I feel that FSA has been an important part of my college career in helping me grow as a student and individual on campus. What this community has done for me is build a safe and comfortable environment where I can be my true self building bonds and relationships that will last a lifetime. All the folks I have met, past and present members of FSA has inspired me to strive to make a difference for improving this community. And through FSA I hope to in return by giving back to this space the best way I can through outreach. I have been a strong supporter in FSA since my 1st year, being involved in many aspects of FSA such as ASF, KAMP, PCC and Haluan. I understand the hard work that goes into each event and I try my best to attend and help volunteer for every event, workshop or gathering FSA hosts.

I am applying for the position of A Step Forward Coordinator because I have so much love and passion for this program. Ever since being a participant in ASF 12 I continue to anything and everything in my ability to make ASF a successful experience to those after me. I have volunteered for almost every type of volunteer position possible whether it is sleep chaperone, spending the most time with the participants to being luggage crew and doing more of the background work. I believe that the next step for me in contributing to this program I hold very close to my heart is running for the coordinating position. I am a strong advocate for higher education and this program along with the other SIO programs because it gives High School students who have gone through many similar struggles a chance to experience college and the wonderful possibilities it can bring. This student run, student led outreach program is very important in helping folks like us who maybe the first to go to college in their family, who are underrepresented or of low-income families achieve higher education whether it be here in UCSC or other colleges around the world.

My goal if elected for this position is to continue to promote and advocate for higher education. I will continue to fight for permanent funding for all of SIO programs because it is extremely important to maintain these programs and promote diversity. I also want to make ASF a successful experience for all participants and volunteers. The connection that are made between volunteers and participants are crucial because the mentorship that comes along with it helps guide future college student in making the decision that is right for them. I will work together with my fellow coordinators to make ASF improve for the better. I want to outreach to other communities that have not been outreached to in the past for reasons such as there is no bus stop around their area. Things like this can make ASF more successful and accessible for all students of color.

Being a Haluan coordinator this year has help me grow as a leader and student organizer. I have learned how to work well and cooperatively with my fellow coordinators. This consists of working with my strengths and what I am good at to benefit this aspect. I enjoy working with others and having good communication within the team. I also very familiar with handling paper work to make events possible which is key in having a successful event. Working with SOAR and E² I understand the importance of the resources I have as a student organizer. Also being a Coordinator of a performing aspect I learned how to be patient and caring for others. Being empathetic and having a grasp of what is needed with each individual can make huge events like ASF run more smoothly and enjoyable. Having an active leadership role in the FSA community has modeled me to the leader I am today and I understand the hard work and collaborative effort it takes in creating such an important event like ASF for this

community.