

On March 19, 2020 at 9:38 PM M Kalanzis <mkdragonstaff@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi Mr. Mullane,

Here's my testimonial letter! I hope you're well in these crazy times and that you get all the funding this program deserves!

I'm at UT Dallas, building up my reel for auditions, and I was wondering - can I get a copy of the three films I was in at WHS? Two are from 2017-2018 and the last one is from 2016-2017: Spotlight, The Odyssey of Two Misfits, and Pandora 7.

Thank you so much for all that you do!

With my best,  
Melinda Kalanzis

To whom it may concern,

WayCAM is an incredibly wonderful program that has affected great change in my and many other students' lives. I was an actor/director in high school with the theatre ensemble, and my advanced acting class allowed me to audition for and act in WayCAM's student films my junior and senior year.

Today, I'm studying theatre at the University of Texas at Dallas. I'm still acting on camera, too - last year, I played the lead in a student film and won Best Actor at my college's Cosmic Film Festival. This year at UT Dallas, I landed a large role in a three-part episodic drama which was ultimately cancelled and a lead role in another short film, which has been postponed because of COVID-19.

My years with WayCAM gave me invaluable experience in front of the camera, all the way from our audition process to being on set to how to watch yourself at awards shows and not cringe! Winning Best Actress my senior year at our student film festival gave my confidence in myself as an artist a boost, too! I'm so grateful to Mr. Mullane and this program for giving me and many others that opportunity. It's difficult to start out acting in film, but it's a big help to know that as I build footage for my reel, I have a treasure-trove of WayCAM student films I can go back to.

We actors also got the chance to learn a lot about the equipment, meet with a professional screenwriter, and even sit in on the editing process. Plus, it was an amazing opportunity to collaborate with the creators in the script-to-screen class and make great friends and lasting connections.

Not many students, especially not students in public schools, have the chance to participate in a program like we have with WayCAM. It was one of the best parts of high school for me and gave me a helping hand on my way to becoming an actor/director. I'm immensely grateful to Mr. Mullane and everyone behind that program, and I hope it stays strong far into the future so that other students can have the amazing opportunities that I enjoyed.

With my best,  
Melinda Kalanzis