

Scholarship Applicant Summary

Name:	Gavin-Dale Lopez	Age at Graduation:	18
Site:	Home Campus	Length of Stay:	5 years 6 months
Post Graduation Plan:	2-Year College	Placement Status:	None
GPA:	3.28	ACT Score:	21
Planning Meeting #1:	68	Planning Meeting #2:	83
School Name:	Front Range Community College	Current Employment:	Not currently employed
SSM Model Category #:	1	Pell Amount \$	7393
Extra-Curricular:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cross Country (Sophomore) - Cross Country (Senior) - Cross Country (Freshman) - Highschool pep band (9th-12th) - Honey Sunday (Community Service) (8th-12th) - Chess club (12th) - Track (10th) 		
Leadership Positions:	- 1st chair Tenor Sax (11th-12th)		
Major/Field of Work or Study:	Journalism and Communication		
Post-Graduation Final Plan Details:	After graduation, my primary goal is to attend Front Range Community College and earn a bachelor's degree in journalism. To fund my education, I plan to apply for multiple scholarships and, once I return home, work a job during the months leading up to the Fall semester. This strategy will allow me to stay financially prepared and focused as I transition into the next chapter of my academic journey.		
What needs to be done to finalize my plan:	The things that need to be done, are the completion of the enrollment process, registering for classes.		
Youth Identified Challenges/Barriers:	A major barrier to my plan is the ability to transfer my credits.		
Housing Plan:	Living with family or friends		
Outstanding Needs:	none		

Letter of Recommendation

Student: Lopez, Gavin-Dale (4-year college) **Completed On:** 2/16/26

Recommender: Witt, Kelly (Teacher) **Total Score:** N/A

Application Type:

Scholarship

Insightful Recommendation

Can you share a moment when the applicant demonstrated integrity, empathy, or leadership in a meaningful way?

When I think about a time Gavin demonstrated leadership in a meaningful way, Cross Country season immediately comes to mind. As a varsity runner, he frequently led the Junior Varsity runners during practices. He didn't just focus on his own performance — he made sure others were keeping pace and staying encouraged. He set the tone with consistency and work ethic. His leadership is steady and example-driven. Younger teammates followed him because he showed them what discipline and commitment look like.

In addition to athletics, Gavin's involvement in Chess Club highlights another side of his leadership and discipline. Chess requires patience, critical thinking, and the ability to anticipate consequences — skills Gavin has strengthened over time. He approaches challenges thoughtfully, learning to think several moves ahead rather than reacting impulsively.

Has the applicant faced a significant challenge, and how did they respond or grow from that experience?

In terms of overcoming challenges, Gavin has shown tremendous growth. He has openly acknowledged that earlier in his life he made decisions that created difficult circumstances for him. Instead of allowing those moments to define him, he chose to learn from them. He worked through the consequences, adjusted his mindset, and committed to making better choices. That process required accountability and maturity. There were times he questioned whether he would even make it through high school — but he did. That perseverance gave him grit, and that grit is something he carries with him today.

One significant challenge Gavin faced was working through the consequences of a poor decision earlier in his high school years. At the time, the situation created setbacks and forced him to confront some hard truths about responsibility and the direction his life was heading. It would have been easy for him to shut down, blame others, or give up. Instead, Gavin chose a different path.

He accepted accountability. He owned his part in the situation and made a conscious decision to grow from it. That meant rebuilding trust, adjusting his choices, and committing to consistent effort — not just for a few weeks, but over time. Growth for Gavin wasn't immediate or flashy; it was steady and intentional.

Through that process, he developed grit. There were moments when he doubted himself and even questioned whether he would make it through high school. But he kept going. He leaned into structure, athletics, academics, and positive peer relationships. Over time, the young man who once struggled became a varsity athlete, an active participant in multiple activities, and a student inducted into the Tri-M Honor Society.

The challenge did not define him — his response did. Gavin's ability to face adversity, accept responsibility, and grow from it is one of his greatest strengths. It has shaped him into someone more disciplined, self-aware, and determined about his future.

What aspects of the applicant's character or experience make them a strong fit for the Successful Futures program (Housing or Community Supports) and/or strengthen their scholarship application?

There are many moments that show his strength of character. He is widely known among his peers as someone who supports others. If you ask around, many students would be able to share a story of a time Gavin encouraged them, stood by them, or helped them through something difficult. He has become a steady, supportive presence in the community. That empathy and willingness to show up for others speaks volumes about his character.

In Chess Club, I've seen Gavin encourage newer players, explaining strategy and helping them think through their next move. That same steady guidance shows up in how he supports peers outside of the club — calm, thoughtful, and encouraging.

Can you share a specific story or moment that highlights the applicant's strengths or the positive impact they've made, based on your personal experience with them?

One moment that really captures Gavin's strengths isn't just a single event — it's the pattern of his journey, which reminds me so much of a cross country race.

In cross country, not every part of the course feels the same. Some stretches are smooth and steady. You find your rhythm, your breathing settles, and the miles feel manageable. But then there are the hills — the uneven terrain, the parts where your legs burn and your mind starts telling you to slow down. That's where the race is really won.

Gavin's high school journey has followed that same pattern. There were seasons when things felt steady and positive. And there were seasons that were steep — moments where he faced consequences, self-doubt, and difficult circumstances. During those tougher stretches, I watched him dig deep the way a runner does when they hit the hardest hill. No one can run that part for you. You have to decide to keep moving.

What stands out about Gavin is that he didn't quit when the course got hard. He motivated himself. He adjusted his pace. He recommitted to the finish line. Instead of letting the tough miles define him, he used them to build endurance. Over time, I saw him grow more disciplined, more self-aware, and more determined.

By the time he reached his senior year, the runner was stronger — not because the race was easy, but because he had pushed through the hard parts. Just like in cross country, the hills developed his strength. And because of that, he is finishing his race stronger than he started it.

After graduation, Gavin-Dale plans to attend Colorado State University to pursue a degree in journalism and media. His goal reflects his growth and his desire to use his voice in meaningful ways. I believe the resilience he has built and the leadership he has practiced will serve him well in college and beyond.

Is there any additional insight or information you'd like to provide about this applicant that hasn't been covered yet?

Gavin is not defined by past struggles, but by the strength he developed in overcoming them. He has shown leadership, accountability, empathy, and grit. I wholeheartedly recommend him for the Successful Futures scholarship and am confident he will continue to rise to every opportunity placed before him.

Gavin's journey has been like both a cross country race and a chess match. Cross country taught him endurance — how to push through the hills. Chess taught him strategy — how to think ahead and adjust when a move doesn't go as planned. Together, those experiences reflect who he has become: resilient enough to handle setbacks and thoughtful enough to make wiser decisions moving forward.

Letter of Recommendation

Student:	Lopez, Gavin-Dale (4-year college)	Completed On: 2/13/26
Recommender:	Petry, Mike (Teacher)	Total Score: N/A
Application Type: Scholarship		
Insightful Recommendation		
Can you share a moment when the applicant demonstrated integrity, empathy, or leadership in a meaningful way?		
Gavin is a very quiet young man but is always kind and empathetic toward peers. One thing that Gavin does that shows maturity is that he tries to sit away from negative peers or peers who get off task. He does his work with hard work and pride.		
Has the applicant faced a significant challenge, and how did they respond or grow from that experience?		
Gavin has created an experience in class where he hasn't had a ton of adversity because he has taken the steps to always put himself in a place to avoid challenge.		
What aspects of the applicant's character or experience make them a strong fit for the Successful Futures program (Housing or Community Supports) and/or strengthen their scholarship application?		
Gavin has a strong analytical mind, he has interest in knowledge and hard work doesn't scare him off.		
Can you share a specific story or moment that highlights the applicant's strengths or the positive impact they've made, based on your personal experience with them?		
Well, Gavin is a Chess wiz, I have always been impressed with chess masters and Gavin is an excellent chess player. I think this shows some of his educational potential.		
Is there any additional insight or information you'd like to provide about this applicant that hasn't been covered yet?		
Gavin ran cross country and is not afraid of hard work, that with his intellect I find to be a good combination.		

My name is Gavin, and as I am preparing to graduate, I am finally ready to move into a new phase of life with excitement, purpose, and a clear vision for where I want to go next. After crossing that stage in the Music Hall, my plan is to attend Front Range Community College during the Fall Semester. Choosing Front Range Community College was easy, since it was the type of environment I wanted to learn and grow in, somewhere that would challenge me, inspire me, and expose me to new opportunities. Front Range Community College also stood out not only because of its strong academic programs, but also because of the community and the opportunities it offers for students who want to make a meaningful impact in their fields.

While at Front Range Community College, I am going to attend the department of Journalism and Communication. It is a field that fascinates me because it blends storytelling, creativity, truth-seeking, and connection—things I have always valued, as well as the fact of Taking photos and writing has always been a strength. Journalism is about giving a voice to the unheard, telling stories that matter, and bringing clarity to the world. My goal is to gain practical experience as soon as possible by securing an internship with a local newspaper. I know that real-world experience is best way to learn. By working for a newspaper, I will be able to put classroom lessons into practice, make money while working, cover real stories, meet people from different backgrounds, and sharpen my interviewing, writing, and communication skills.

I am also hoping that working locally will help me build professional connections, relationships you cannot always find in a classroom. Journalism is a field built on trust, credibility, and the ability to connect with others, and I believe hands-on experience will help me grow in all those areas, and maybe build connections for the future, and my clients will return to me, because of my quality. After earning my bachelor's degree, I do not plan to stop. My long-term goal is to push further and pursue a master's in journalism. I want to master the field of Photography. A master's degree will open doors to more advanced career opportunities and help me become the kind of Photographer who not only reports stories, but tells stories that change perspectives, challenge assumptions, and make a real impact.

My success began at Boys Town, where I have spent valuable years learning, growing, stumbling, and getting back up again. My time at Boys Town has been filled with challenges, opportunities, and transformative experiences. It was not always a smooth flight—some days felt heavier than others, and some moments tested my patience, my confidence, and my resilience. But looking back, I am grateful for the rough patches just as much as the good ones, because they shaped me into the person I am becoming.

One of the most important lessons I learned at Boys Town is understanding when to pick my battles. When I first arrived, I reacted to a lot of things that did not really need my energy. I have grown to recognize that not every situation requires a response and not every challenge is worth fighting. There is strength in knowing when to speak up and when to let things go. Learning this helped me stay focused on what truly matters, my goals, my growth, and the person I want to become. It also taught me patience, emotional control, and maturity, qualities that will serve me well as I transition into adulthood.

Another powerful lesson I have learned is how to persevere even when life feels overwhelming. Boys Town has a way of revealing who you are under pressure. There were days I felt frustrated, confused, or uncertain, but those were the days that taught me the most. I learned that strength is not just about surviving hardships, it is about rising above them. Strength is getting up again after a setback, choosing growth over comfort, and believing in your future even when your past makes it feel unsure.

Perhaps the most meaningful realization I have had is that success is possible for anyone, regardless of their history. Before Boys Town, it was easy to feel defined by the things I went through or the mistakes I made. But being here taught me that your past does not define who you are. I have learned that I have the power to shape my own life. I have also learned that change is real, growth is real, and potential is something we all carry inside us. With determination, support, and the right mindset, I have finally seen myself become someone I am proud of—and someone who is ready to take on the world beyond Boys Town.

As I prepare to step into the next chapter of my life, I carry these lessons with me. They are the foundation of the future I am building. The dreams I have for myself—attending Front Range Community College, becoming a journalist, pursuing a master's degree, they are all not just goals; they are commitments to the person I'm becoming, and giving thanks to those who showed me a way. Boys Town did not just prepare me academically; it has prepared me mentally and emotionally as well. It taught me resilience, responsibility, and belief in myself. It showed me that success isn't about where you started, but where you decide to go and how hard you are willing to work to get there.

I know the future will not be perfect. There will be challenges, financial obstacles, moments of doubt, and times where the path forward might not feel clear. I know I can handle those moments. I know how to keep moving forward, how to stay focused on my purpose, and how to believe in myself even when things feel uncertain. I am stepping into the future with confidence—not because I think it will be easy, but because I know, I am ready.