

Dear Thrivers Selection Committee,

Emma Lopez-Bianchi is a senior Sociology Major, President and founder of the NJCU Rotoract Club, President of her chapter of Theta Phi Alpha Sorority, Administrative Assistant at the City Therapy Group, Outreach Coordinator at the Bridges Outreach Inc., and in my opinion, most importantly, a Student Assistant and my right hand at the NJCU Center for Community Engagement. At first glance Emma may come across as quiet and unassuming, attentive and diligent. As evidenced by her long and growing list of noteworthy accomplishments it is clear that Ms. Bianchi is a force when it comes to serving her fellow man.

When I met Emma, I knew her to be a hardworking albeit shy, undecided, sophomore who frequented the Center for Community Engagement's (CCE) Friday Knights. Little did I know that I would have the absolute pleasure of watching her develop into the confident, and impactful servant leader she is today. Emma went from Friday Knights participant to Friday Knights Program Coordinator within the span of 2 semesters. During which time, Ms. Bianchi also decided to pursue a sociology degree during her undergraduate career and now seeks to earn a master's degree in Public Administration in Non Profit Management. Ms. Bianchi lives a life that is a testament to the benefits of engaged, responsible citizenship and would serve as a shining example of the epitome of what it means to be a Camus Compact Thriver.

Seeing Emma graduate with her undergraduate degree is bittersweet. While I am brimming with pride that she has grown into the impressive woman she is today, I am so sorely going to miss her ability to engage and encourage students to positively impact the lives of others while coming into their own potential. I enthusiastically nominate Emma to serve as member of the inaugural 2020 Class of Thrivers. Should you have any questions regarding this amazing young woman, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours in Service,

Robert Quinones

NJCU, Center for Community Engagement

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