

James A. Foshay Learning Center

3751 South Harvard Boulevard, Los Angeles, California 90018
TELEPHONE (323) 373-2700 FAX (323) 733-2120
Internet Address: www.foshaylc.org

John E. Deasy, Ph.D.
School Superintendent

Dr. Juan J. McKenna III
Superintendent, Local District 7

Yvonne Garrison Edwards
Principal

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To the Warren Scholarship Committee:

I am an English/Language Arts educator at Foshay Learning Center, in several Small Learning Communities (SLCs). Students enter from our middle school through a rigorous process since we are small by design. Usually this is how I get to know our students- but not Rosa. I have had the pleasure of knowing and working with her since her 8th grade year, initially as a cast member in a campus production, "A Brand New Day" while I was a teacher responsible back stage. She was the only non-high school student in the production in front of or behind the curtain. She pushed herself and never gave less than her best- polite but not hesitant to ask questions, comfortable in her role as a performer, participant, and as a learner.

We continued our relationship when Rosa enrolled as a freshman in my English 9 class. How fortunate for Foshay and me: she is a person for who respects her capabilities, and sets her own standards for her personal best, and they are firmly in place. Now a sophomore in my SLC and my advisee, I work with her daily. She is currently serving in our Technology Academy as a leader. I can always count on her for her insight and consideration- and others look to her as well for her opinion and educated assistance.

Always a team player, Rosa has never shirked more visible and less quiet roles. Her leadership style supports others beyond her friends, helping- even mentoring- all to develop their skills, thus yielding a stronger, more involved membership. Her community service record already goes well beyond the District graduation requirement through her roles as Teacher Assistant at Menlo Avenue Elementary and here at Foshay. Her awareness of how her efforts and talents can meet other people's needs has made her invaluable in two particular extracurricular arenas at Foshay: Through her active membership and participation in our Band, a class but with credentials of last year's performances at the Hollywood Bowl and the Disney Music Hall, so much more; the other, in competitive sports, currently Expo Center Soccer. In both roles training as a group member, but by challenging herself, thereby, challenging others.

Rosa has an eye always on her future, and therefore, seeks opportunities (takes risks?) that others do not. Most people would say these activities only add to stress, yet Rosa Penate says the diversity of activities have taught her the range of her capabilities and interests are not constrained. Whether she attempts challenges on her

own, it is evident to others that she is not a quitter. She has told me that when everything becomes overwhelming, the best advice is to slow down, prioritize, and take things step-by-step. Both in and out of school settings, if I had a problem, I know I can count on Rosa. She is intelligent, articulate and determined, willing to challenge herself to improve her life and others'.

You may call me at Foshay Learning Center at (323) 373-2700, ext. 380, if you have any questions.

Myra LeBendig

English teacher, Technology Academy