

TJCSGA Region 2 - 2019
Student of the Year: Richland College
Haya Qazi



As a student, a daughter and an immigrant, Haya has always faced the challenge of adapting herself to the ever-changing world. Haya Qazi had always strived to be a better person at every turn of her life. Haya is the President of the local Student Government Association(SGA) at Richland College (RLC). She has been involved in the planning and execution of every local student government association event for the last two years. Haya first joined RLC SGA in the fall of 2017 as a delegate. Not soon after, she ran for the open position of Vice President and won uncontested. After the previous President had to step down because of personal reasons, Haya was elected as Interim President. The Richland College Student Government Association was, at the time, going through a challenging time which lead to a drop in member attendance and negligent involvement in the community. Determined to create a new kind of SGA, she ran for President's position for the 2018-2019 which she won by a landslide. She and her newly elected executive board spent the summer of 2018 planning for a new year and a new kind of SGA. SGA realized that the students of Richland College, diverse as they are, have many opinions that need to be heard. They wanted to help create an environment that promoted a growing community with the awareness of the problems that affect them.

Haya, along with her officers and advisor, planned their very first event as a new SGA which was the Food Shortage Awareness Day. The President understood that the most difficult challenge college students have on a day to day basis was affording to feed themselves. What was more surprising was that a lot of students did not realize just how many among them were suffering from some form of food shortage. Often, they did not wish to acknowledge their own situation, which led to Haya planning the Food Shortage Awareness Day. She set about emailing and inviting several charity organizations that helped in the reduction of food shortage in the community. The RLC SGA created this event to help students become more aware of the seriousness of the situation and to the resources that could provide aid. The organizations helped to spread awareness and showcase different resources available to the community. They also provided volunteer opportunities to the students who wished to better their community.

Haya understood that this was only a step towards a more aware student body. Her next big step was facilitating the creation of a community that decided their future. With the primary elections drawing close, RLC SGA planned for increasing the number of registered voters at Richland College. She was struck with inspiration when she saw her SGA adviser voting during the summer break. Being a lawful permanent resident and only arrived in the States just two years prior, Haya did not have the ability to vote. However, that didn't stop her from pushing and encouraging her fellow students to vote. Haya wanted students to know how easy it was to vote so

she, along with the help of their wonderful advisor, worked to get an actual voting machine onto campus. The RLC SGA, along with the League of Women Voters and several other organizations such as Move Texas and Spread the Vote set up for the National Voter Registration Day. Understanding the need for a high voter turnout in these stressful times, SGA teamed up with League of Women of Voters to get people registered in and out of classes. After working hard, the student government managed to get over a thousand people registered to vote in time for the elections. The SGA later learned that Richland had a 74% new voter turn out rate in the midterm elections.

Haya worked hard for a goal that was close to her and her efforts did not go unnoticed. Almost two weeks after the event, the RLC SGA adviser was contacted in the middle of the night by someone from Voto Latino. They expressed their interest in working with the student government body to have a voter rally with America Ferrera accompanied by Alicia Keys and Zoe Kravitz. In a matter of 4 days, Haya and her determined Executive board set up a voter rally that would host almost 3200 people. Haya, having won first place in an extempore speech competition in her high school, spoke with confidence in front of 3200 people on how important the voice of the students is and she encouraged students to take action. After the rally, she and her fellow students interviewed America Ferrera, Alicia Keys, and Liza Koshy about the importance of voting especially college students. Haya also interviewed with a reporter from the Dallas Observer who wrote about her and RLC SGA's efforts on that day.

Serving as the President of Richland College's student government has always been an honor for Haya and welcomed the challenge. Being in RLC SGA changed her as a person and helped her grow as a leader. When the Office of Student Life at Richland College decided their club and organization funding through the Student Government Association, Haya rose to the challenge. She worked closely with the treasurer of the student government and the college's financial services advisor to prepare a rubric system for clubs and organization club funding requests. She took inspiration from the college's method of allocating funds based on educational and community building aspects. Haya fashioned it based on grading rubric so it would be easy for students from clubs and organizations to understand.

When first joining Richland College SGA as Vice President, she was introduced to TJCSGA by the host of 2017-2018 Region II TJCSGA. She was encouraged to join a committee in fall 2017. Haya ran for the position of chair of the awards committee and won. Serving as the chair gave her plenty of opportunity of working with many inspiring people who pushed her to go beyond herself. She was even recommended by the 2017-2018 TJCSGA

Region II President to run for their position the following year, which Haya declined. Although she was grateful for the opportunity, she wanted to concentrate on improving the local SGA and setting up a stage for the future RLC SGA members. She understood the change, real change, begins from home and that's where she decided to start from. Haya is still an enthusiastic participant of the TJCSGA Region II 2018-2019. She attended the fall conference and joined the Resolutions Committee as a Secretary.

Haya has always been an outspoken member of her college and always found ways to voice her opinion. Haya has a diverse background with her parents being from India with herself being born in and attended high school in Saudi Arabia. Haya joined the Philosophy Club on her campus as a way to open herself up to various thought processes. Philosophy Club is very popular and well received at Richland College, having almost 130 members. She served as a Communications Officer/ Media Specialist and then as a Secretary for this club and even co-hosted in many of Philosophy Club's weekly radio show. As she loves to debate and discuss many topics, she even joined the Debate Club to challenge herself.

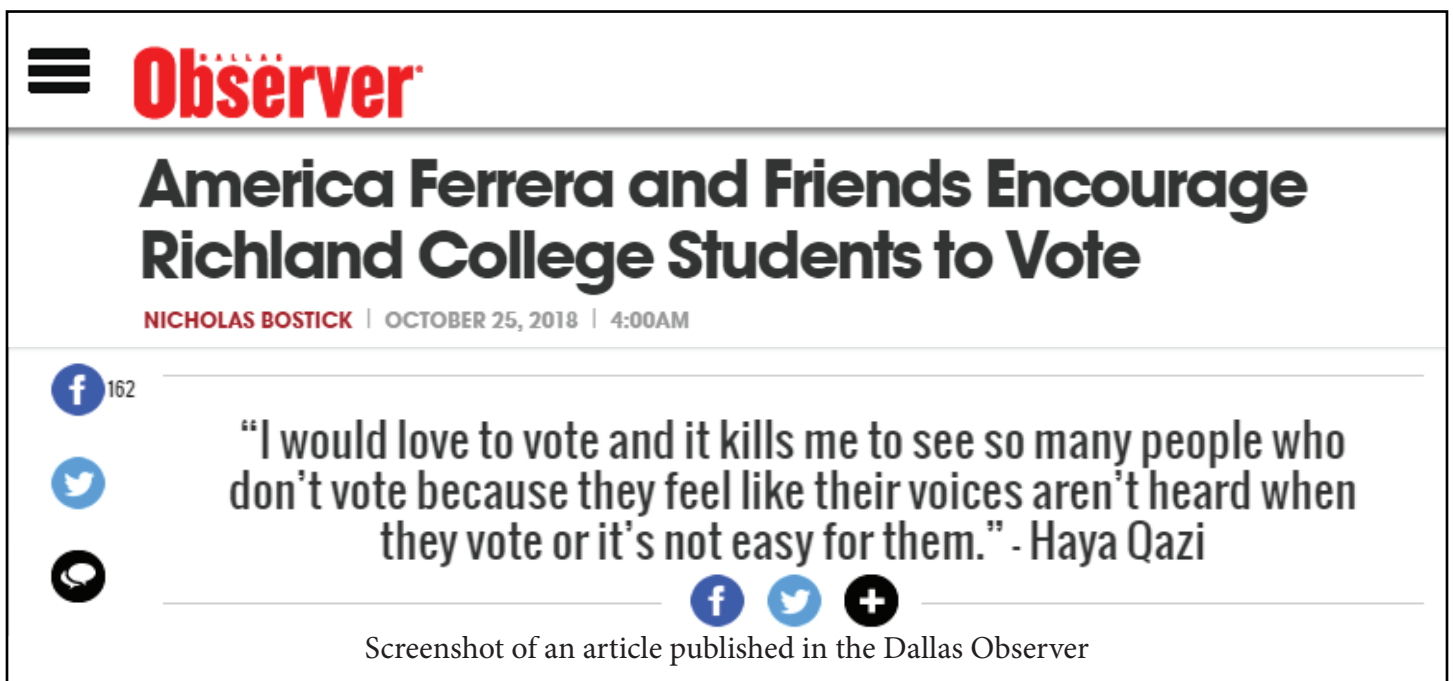
Haya felt keen about many topics that plague students in America these days. In a show of solidarity, she even joined the March for Our Lives which happened at Richland College against the mass shootings that have been happening lately in the country. This led to her participating in a panel discussion on student activism and what that meant as a member of student government. She also a regular member of the Feeding Richland Program which strives to improve the food situation of the community. She works weekly at the college food pantry which provides free food and nonperishables to those in need in the community. Haya often also assists in the biweekly Mobile Food Pantry which gives fresh produce supplied by the North Texas Food Bank. In an effort to help international students feel comfortable in an unfamiliar environment, she occasionally takes part in the ESOL learning program which gathers students who have difficulty speaking English and lets them use her as a practice dummy for their improvement. Haya constantly seeks to improve herself in every way. Haya hopes that by setting an example of community involvement, Richland College students will build a new future for themselves, one that's built from the voices of the students.

Striving for perfection, Haya is a high achieving student with a grade point average of 3.7. She pushes herself to be better at every turn including the limits of her knowledge. She knows more than 4 languages and is constantly trying to learn more. In the fall of 2018, Haya joined the Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institution. She attended the Asian American and Pacific Islander Lead class to improve her leadership skills. The AAPI Lead classes are free cost leadership classes that teach its attendees to better

understand what it means to be a leader in this day and age. She is now taking part in the Tier II section of the AAPI Lead class which pairs students with a professional in their career of interest to better understand their path. Along with being an inspiring leader, Haya is an exemplary student. Haya is a part of the Honor Student Organization and also a part of the Alpha Alpha Xi chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society at Richland College.

Along with being a full-time student and an active member of the community, Haya also juggles her part-time job and her family in perfect balance. Her mother had to go back to her home country for a few months which left Haya in charge of her two brothers and her retired father. Hailing from a conservative family, Haya took over her mom's job of cooking, cleaning, grocery shopping and doing the laundry. She did this alongside her classes, her job, and community involvement. Haya knows that people these days struggle to find a balance between their work life and their home life and she knows it will be a challenge for her as well in the future. Despite these hardships, Haya doesn't want to stop pushing for success.

She encourages her peers and the students to be better versions of themselves through her actions and positive aura. Haya is not just a source of encouragement but could be considered a bank of creativity. With the numerous ideas she springs up, one could only wonder how she was capable of thinking about something so peculiar yet breathtaking. Grit, efficiency, and motivation are words that solely describe Haya Qazi.





Richland College

DALLAS COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

February 18, 2019
Texas Junior College Student Government Association
2019 Convention
Dallas, TX

Dear TJCSGA,

It is my immense pleasure to recommend Miss Haya Qazi for the honor of TJCSGA Student of the Year 2019. Miss Qazi is one of my best students and has been an officer in the Student Government Association for the last 2 years. As the primary advisor for the SGA, I can attest to the fact that Miss Qazi has gone above and beyond to help SGA become the productive group that it is. I am constantly in awe of her energy and drive to help the students of Richland College. Miss Qazi always demonstrates an extraordinary level of confidence and pride in her work. Her level of knowledge and professionalism are also impressive.

I believe that her strong academic performance is really self-explanatory; however, what is truly impressive about Miss Qazi is her ability to transition from a student to a student leader both in the classroom and throughout the college as a whole. Observing Miss Qazi in her position as SGA President quickly revealed to me one of her greatest qualities is the desire for personal growth and development. She has consistently proven to be an exceptional student scholar and a diplomat for public service. Even with all of her extracurricular activities, Haya is very interested in serving her peers, but also keeps her main focus on academics which is the key to being an exceptional student leader.

In closing, I would like to add that Haya is well respected by both students and Richland College administrators. I wholeheartedly support and endorse her candidacy.

Sincerely,

Kelly Sonnanstine, M.P.S./M.P.A.
Coordinator, New Student Orientation
Richland College
Office of Student Life
972.238.6133



February 19, 2019

To the Esteemed 'Student of the Year' Application Review Committee,

I am absolutely thrilled to have the opportunity to recommend Haya Qazi for the prestigious TJCSGA 'Student of the Year' award.

To begin with her academic contributions to our community, Haya is an overall superlative student. Whereas the vast majority of students possess particular strengths alongside evident weaknesses, Haya exhibits an academic skill set that is impressively well-rounded. Specifically, she remains ever focused during lectures, poses articulate questions and responses during class discussions and oral exams, and exhibits a highly refined style of writing. However, all of these strengths stem from a common source, that which I take to be her strongest attribute of all: a keen intellect; truly, Haya is an exceptionally intelligent individual, the likes of which I only rarely encounter. Haya attended my Honors Introduction to Philosophy class in Spring 2018 and met the challenges of this rigorous course with a natural proclivity for thoughtful engagement. When the course material demanded that students analyze philosophical and theological positions, as it often did, Haya was always the first to penetrate the most difficult of arguments, seize their core points, and evaluate accordingly. She consistently displayed advanced insight by concretizing philosophically abstract ideas by drawing on appropriate examples that are relevant to the world in which we live. Likewise, when considering particular aspects of a theory, she never lost sight of what the implications might mean for the bigger picture. Haya's impressive ability to raise critical objections to the ethical and metaphysical positions purported by the course material is rather noteworthy. Ultimately, I find all of this to be indicative of her exceedingly sharp mind; coupled with her diligent work ethic and an inquisitive nature, Haya has proven herself to be every bit the consummate academician and serves her fellow student as clear embodiment of student academic success.

While enrolled in my class, Haya's genuine passion for understanding Philosophy exhibited itself on a consistent basis, from arriving to class early in hopes of engaging me in dialogue over the course material, to lingering after class had concluded in order to continue the conversation well after her colleagues had lost interest. Haya never failed to ask for additional reading material on whichever thinker we were studying, and she always rewarded my recommendations by eagerly returning with intelligent questions and careful analysis based off of the recommended literature. To be sure, these were dense, scholarly works, and she grasped them with relative ease. However, what separates Haya from so many of my other students is her sustained fascination with the course material even after the course had concluded. Haya's strong desire to continue learning for the sake of knowledge itself is nothing short of exemplary. Furthermore, the depth of our chats extends far beyond the scope of even an upper level philosophy class; indeed, her ability to keep up even as our conversations approach deeply abstract territory never ceases to amaze me. Throughout these conversations, I find myself forgetting, time and again, that I am dialoguing with an undergraduate rather than an academic peer. Such thorough engagement with difficult topics testifies to the sheer joy that she experiences while learning.

While in class, students often sought out Haya for help with grasping the material, and she was always eager to assist his fellow classmates by answering their questions, organizing study sessions, and even offering to tutor those who needed it. However, her impactful roles in the Philosophy Club and the Philosophy Club Radio Hour are perhaps the best examples of how she shares her knowledge and passion with the greater college community. As I alluded to previously, a major strength of hers is the ability to comprehend conceptually lofty theories in a fashion much quicker than her peers and provide concrete examples as a way to illustrate such notions; such an invaluable asset, combined with an infectious optimism that elevates the spirits of everyone round

her, makes Haya the ideal student representative of any and every organization, in which she involves herself. Beginning in the Fall 2017 semester, Haya became – and continues to be - an especially active member of the Philosophy Club and a constant student contributor to the Philosophy Club Radio Hour live broadcast/video podcast. Haya subsequently ran for a leadership position on the Philosophy Club Student Executive Board and was unanimously elected by her colleagues to serve as the Communications Officer in Spring 2018, a notoriously demanding position that she held with tremendous aplomb, dedication, and skill. The following semester, Haya was unanimously nominated by her peers to serve as the Philosophy Club Student President; however, due to stipulations surrounding her position as Student Government Association President, she accepted the position of Philosophy Club Secretary while continuing her dedicated service to promoting and help guiding both the PC Club and Radio Show, eventually graduating to official podcast host of the latter. And, most recently, in a gesture of admirable generosity and community-mindfulness, Haya accepted the student nomination to continue serving as Secretary with the caveat that she did not want to stand in the way of any students who were interested in pursuing a leadership position in the Philosophy Club for the first time; in fact, when another student expressed interest in running for the Secretary position, Haya graciously stepped down to allow a new student to gain leadership experience while nonetheless remaining an active member. And while there are countless other examples such as that one that I could draw upon when describing Haya’s strong student leadership, suffice it to say that, as faculty advisor of the Philosophy Club, I have had the pleasure of witnessing Haya exhibit strong leadership qualities on a weekly basis for several semesters now, and the inspirational impact she has on her fellow students as a galvanizing force among such a diversity is undeniable. As an embodiment of student leadership by example in both word and deed, she elevates the expectations that her fellow students have of themselves, as well as what professors can dare to dream of when setting their own expectations of what might constitute the ideal student at Richland. Indeed, Haya Qazi is that ideal student.

In conclusion, I have endeavored to point out the following: first, that Haya’s propensity for employing creative thinking alongside logical analysis makes her the ideal scholar; secondly, that her powerful love of learning—fueled by an authentic sense of wonder and awe at the world—makes her the ideal student; finally, that her powerful inclination, dare I say a calling, to spread her knowledge with fellow members of his academic community—and thereby inspire them—makes her a commendable human being. However, perhaps I can express my assessment of Haya in even stronger terms. Since I have begun teaching on the college level twelve years ago, I have had well north of 1,000 total students enrolled in my classes – and I am certain that Haya deserves a seat in my ideal class of top 30 students of all time; indeed, I consider Haya to be among the best all-around students that I have ever had the great pleasure of teaching. Beyond her academic achievements and tireless work ethic, Haya has an affable personality and possesses such qualities of character as focus, ambition, and spiritedness. In closing, I am honored to have the privilege of recommending Haya for ‘Student of the Year; please give her the utmost consideration, as I can hardly imagine a more deserving candidate. I hereby offer Haya Qazi my strongest possible recommendation, and I have complete confidence that, if named ‘Student of the Year’, she will absolutely honor the title by continuing to be a standout representative of student integrity, enthusiasm, and leadership.

Sincerely,

Geoff Manzi

Geoff Manzi, M.A.
Professor of Philosophy
Richland College

Haya in Action



Speaking with Richland President Eggleston



Speaking with US Representative Colin Allred



Speaking in front of 3200 people at the Richland Votes with America Rally



Haya and Regional President Carlos



Having fun with the eBoard



Supporting other SGA chapters at the Beto Rally (El Centro College)




Working in the RLC Food Pantry



Asking her questions to Liza Koshy, America Ferrera, and Alicia Keys

< Qazi, Haya

General Info [Contacts](#) [Address](#) [Classes](#) [Tests](#) [Financial Aid](#) [Degrees](#) [Academic Goals](#) [Advising](#)



Ethnicity: Unknown Or Not Reported
 Race: --
 Origin: --
 Gender: Female
 Age: 20
 Birthday: Oct 27, 1998
 Student ID: 3104551

Alerts

- Student has at least 6 more registered credits than in previous long term

Academic

Standing:	GOOD
Program of Study:	Associate of Science
Active Major:	ASSOCIATE
Start Term / End Term:	2016FA / --
Admission Basis:	High School Graduate
GPA 1:	3.72
GPA 1 Credit Hours:	69
GPA 2:	3.72
GPA 2 Credit Hours:	69

Screenshot of her academic profile