



Student Snapshot: Christopher Gutierrez

Christopher is born and raised in Hartford and grew up in the same house his whole life. He is Peruvian and his parents instilled in him and his older brother a sense of how important school is from a very young age. He has been in magnet schools his whole life, almost, he went to Buckeley High for his Freshman year of high school. Chris gets very good grades. He also swims with the Buckeley High Swim Team, which he loves and keeps him connected with his neighborhood. He said that it is kind of cool to come from another school and still meet kids who go to his neighborhood school. GPA is a family affair for Chris, he came here because his older brother came here.

Chris was recruited to apply to the Wise Travel Scholarship last year by his history teacher at GPA. It was a vigorous application process and he had to apply, write a paper and interview. He was awarded this scholarship and, as a result, travelled with 6 other Hartford students to Detroit, Salt Lake City, Yellowstone, and Jackson Hole. He says that travelling has really opened his eyes and now sees that he wants to go all over the place and learn about the world. He said that it is

different to go and see things for yourself. What stuck out in his mind was the Bison just walking around like squirrels.

He is hoping to get a scholarship; five of his classmates were awarded the Presidential Scholarship for their colleges last year- tuition is fully funded for these students.

Chris thinks GPA:

- ...offers a way to meet different people with different backgrounds and stories.
- ...helps him to be prepared for college.
- ...makes him more confident.
- ...supports him in being more independent and taking ownership over his own learning.
- ...offers him opportunities that fit in with what path he wants to take in life.