

July 26, 2017

Tri-Center Community School Board
33980 310th Street
Neola, IA 51559

To the Tri-Center School Board,

My name is Kaylee Rivera. I am a Junior at Tri-Center High School. I wanted to share with you that I am a State of Iowa Representative for the Be Strong Bullying Program. My journey toward this began four years ago when I was in 7th grade and I experienced bullying. Middle school was very difficult and I know many students go through the same experience but do not have the courage to speak out. I was not chosen for Be Strong because I was bullied, I was chosen because I decided to speak out.

Once I decided to do something to help others, I started my journey by creating an Anti-Bullying and Positive Behaviors Campaign designed to help raise awareness. I decided that it needed something more and I created the STARS Program designed to help prevent bullying in schools. The program brings faculty and students together to have a voice and be involved in preventing bullying.

I realized even the program wasn't enough. With bullying it breaks your self esteem and you need to find something good about yourself before you can find something good about others. That is when I became an Ambassador of the Love Yourself Project based out of New York that spread self love through arts and crafts. I worked with the Student Council to host a workshop at Tri-Center for the Middle and High School students and faculty making origami hearts and educating others how they can find something they can love about themselves. Through my efforts hosting several workshops in the community, I was named Love Yourself Project Ambassador of the year.

This brings me to the Be Strong Program. Dr. Huseman and Mr. Harder noticed my efforts and nominated me to be a Be Strong Representative for Iowa. I accepted this honor to become a representative and wanted to share with each of you.

As the Tri-Center School Board, you can give your support to help promote positive behaviors in the school. I know the School Administration has brought in speakers and has worked very hard addressing negative behaviors within the Middle School. With

school starting in a few weeks, the efforts to promote positive behavior should continue. As the School Board, you can support the Administration in their efforts to educate the students and faculty about promoting positive behaviors while discouraging negative actions. By involving students and faculty in activities encouraging positive behaviors, this will make their school year not just bearable, but amazing.

Thank you for your support of these efforts and I am excited to be a part of it as a Be Strong Representative and a member of the Tri-Center Student Council.

Respectfully,

Kaylee Rivera
Be Strong Representative
Tri-Center High School Student Council
Love Yourself Ambassador
Shelby Youth City Council Reporter
Shelby Trailblazer 4H Vice President
Shelby County 4H Youth Committee Member