

Dear Advisor,

Teachers are some of the most influential people students can look to for guidance during our middle and high school years. We look to our teachers as mentors to help shape us into the people we wish to become. As students, we are eager to learn and are eternally grateful for the learning opportunities that are gifted to us inside and outside of the classroom.

I am able to recall several pivotal moments from my middle and high school years when teachers served as life-changing mentors. Initially, I did not know the profound impact that these moments would have on me. I am forever thankful for the teachers who saw my potential, believed in me, and took the time to listen.

I owe my initial involvement in student leadership to my middle school ASB advisor, who saw my potential and invited me to the 2014 CASL State Conference. Over the course of the three day conference, I fell in love with the purpose behind student activities where leaders have the opportunity to let their peers' voices be heard. CASL sparked my deep passion for serving others and representing the multiple perspectives and values of my peers. I would have never imagined the doors that would open for me because of that conversation with my advisor.

I am so thankful for the opportunities I have experienced through my involvement with CASL, and it is my goal to create opportunities for many students in years to come. The California Association of Student Leaders has been the driving force for cutting-edge leadership in California, and I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to serve this incredible organization.

Looking back, without the teachers who took the time to listen, I would not be where I am today. As our mentors and role models, you equip us with the knowledge and guidance necessary for us to serve others. The support that you offer your students is creating pivotal moments in their lives, and your dedication does not go unnoticed.

With gratitude,
Morgan Rajala
CASL State President