

To whom it may concern,

Hello, my name is Carrie Bishop. The 2017-2018 school year will be my senior year at Ralston Valley High School and my fourth year as a member of the Jeffco Student Health Advisory Council (SHAC). Over the past three years, I have learned that SHAC changes lives. I'm not only talking about the lives of the Jeffco students that were affected by our many projects like the School Without Hate campaign, the elementary school blacktop we painted, or even the Health Education resources available to classrooms. I am talking about SHAC members themselves: our group of high school students from across Jeffco who would not have met otherwise. By the end of each year, we create an incredible project for our peers while developing new skills such as communication, collaboration, and leadership.

When I first heard of SHAC, I was not convinced that a group of students could identify a need across a community and, in a short time, create a project targeting this need. I'm generally an independent person, and I had been more accustomed to doing projects individually or shouldering most of the work in a group. Therefore, I could not visualize the effectiveness of a group of 15 high school students partnering with adults and outside organizations over the course of a school year. Who would listen to a bunch of kids, and why should they? What I underestimated was the passion that drives each and every member of the team. From members who are passionate about networking and leadership, to computer programming and videography, to simply living a healthy life, all of our individual passions come together and create something fantastic. I have seen this process each year, as new people and new strengths are introduced. It is amazing, and it changes each person involved. From my perspective as a shy student who walked into interviews with sweaty palms four years ago, SHAC not only encourages students to take the next steps toward maturity, but also to grow as a contributing member of society. It creates a way for students from all different backgrounds, personalities, and environments to tie together old and new passions to make change. SHAC is a phenomenal group that positively influences each member's life and choices.

SHAC is a fantastic opportunity for students, and I cannot recommend it enough. I encourage you to share this opportunity with students whom you feel would be a contributing member to our team, and would want to join us in a fun and engaging year. I look forward to seeing some of your students at our interviews!

Thank you,  
Carrie Bishop  
Ralston Valley High Senior  
Jeffco Student Health Advisory Council Member