

National ACE Intermediate Student of the Year:

Rosalena Gonzalez

**Nominated by Teacher, Daniel Koch
West Elementary School Mt Vernon, IN**

***T*eacher, Daniel Koch, nominated fifth grade student, Rosalena Gonzalez, from [West Elementary School](#). His write-up and photos follow...**

Rosalena Gonzalez, a 5th Grader at West Elementary School in Mount Vernon, Indiana, is deserving of the National ACE Student of the Year award for a multitude of reasons. Rosalena is an exceptional student, consistently earning Academic Honor Roll recognition. She was also chosen by her classmates to a position of leadership on the West Elementary Student Council. Rosalena holds the fastest mile time among all the girls this year at West Elementary. Her physical strength has enabled her to climb to the top of the rope in P.E. class, earning her prestigious membership in the Tip Top Club. Rosalena is a person of high moral character who demonstrates kindness and respect to her teachers and classmates alike.

Rosalena has a strong desire to learn and achieve. She has certainly shown me she has the "right stuff." She applied for and was selected to be a member of the West Elementary Robotics team where her enthusiasm for STEM related activities was apparent. She quickly took a leadership role on the team in terms of robot design, engineering, and operation. One of the robotic events involved programming the robot to execute specific maneuvers. Rosalena stepped forward, accepting the challenge of writing code that would be downloaded to the robot brain. Rosalena's willingness to embrace this coding challenge created a competitive advantage for her robotics team.

When Col. Brian Schmuck (CAP's new Kentucky Wing Commander) reached out to West Elementary School in the fall of 2020 regarding the CAP ACE program, I knew it would interest my students, and it certainly did interest Rosalena. She looked forward to each CAP lesson, and would often have pertinent questions regarding the specific lesson. In the last session for our class, Rosalena was asking questions about how her continued involvement with the CAP could assist her with college and future career planning.

I'm proud to nominate Rosalena Gonzalez for the National ACE Student of the Year. Her strength of character, commitment to excellence in everything from academics to athletics, and her interest in anything STEM related makes her a top notch candidate for this very special award.

Congratulations, Rosalena!

You epitomize the heart, mind and spirit of true ACE students!

CAP is proud of you and hopes you become a CAP Cadet!

