



Commonwealth of Virginia

RODNEY L. LUSK

**Fairfax County, Franconia District Supervisor
6121 Franconia Road, Alexandria, Virginia 22310**



**Phone: 703-971-6262
Email: Franconia@fairfaxcounty.gov
Website: fairfaxcounty.gov/Franconia**

Board Matter

December 5, 2023

Mr. Chairman – I would like to recognize Alexandra “Zandy” Wong, a class of 2020 Hayfield Secondary School graduate, and current senior at Johns Hopkins University majoring in Public Health Studies, for being selected as one of this year’s Rhodes Scholars. The award is the most prestigious international scholarship for American college graduates.

Ms. Wong is one of 32 students to be selected for this year’s scholarship. She plans to pursue two Master of Science degrees, one in Applied Digital Health, and the other in Evidence-Based Social Intervention and Policy Evaluation. The road to her success hasn’t been an easy one. She was born with over 90% hearing loss in her left ear. At the age of 12, she heard birds sing for the first time when she received a bone anchored hearing aid, or BAHA. The technology in the implant is what led her to pursue a science and stem career.

Ms. Wong started at Johns Hopkins during the pandemic and encountered accessibility issues in a new, online environment. This led to her advocating for herself and others. She then formed NextGen Accessibility Initiative; an

organization that partners with Gen Z led organizations to make their content fully accessible for younger audiences. Ms. Wong has helped create accessible educational content for over 200,000 students across 119 countries. She plans to attend Oxford in October 2024 and then plans to go to medical school to become an academic physician.

Zandy Wong's parents want to thank the Fairfax County Public School system for providing a solid academic foundation and nurturing environment for their children, Meghan, Hana, Zandy, and Sydney Kai. They would like to recognize the individual schools and the support provided by the Individualized Education Program (IEP), that helped her in speech and language starting with her Early Childhood Education program through the 10th grade.

- PreSchool program at Franconia Rec Center, IEP 2006-2007
- Hayfield Elementary School, 2008-2014
- Twain Middle School, 2014-2016
- Hayfield Secondary School, 2016-2020

Mr. Chairman, I move that a proclamation be prepared in acknowledgement of Alexandra "Zandy" Wong for being selected as a 2024 Rhodes scholar to be presented at a future board meeting where her family and friends can be present to celebrate her outstanding accomplishments.