

May 17, 2011

## 2010 Scholarship Recipient Updates and thank you letters:

### Thank you notes from Selected 2010 11 ½ St Foundation Scholarship recipients at the Conclusion of their 1<sup>st</sup> Year

#### 1. Rebecca - Texas State University (2014)

I am one of the recipients of the 11 ½ Street Scholarship and am currently attending Texas State University- San Marcos. I would like to thank you for the donations you have made to the scholarship that have allowed many students to receive it. This scholarship has helped me get that much closer to reaching a college degree.

My first semester at college has been one that I have learned from. I learned that studying and time management are the most important things in order to survive college. I finished the year with a B average and was recently accepted into the Honors' program at Texas State University and will be able to take an honors' course next semester. I've been through my ups and down and I have also learned what helps me get through my classes. I hope that you will continue donating to the 11 ½ street scholarship to help those who are in need of it. I, one day, will like to also donate to the scholarship to help those as you have helped us reach higher education.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity you gave me by giving me the scholarship.

#### 2. Janett -University of Texas (2014)-Mathematics and Computer Science

I am very grateful for the scholarship I received to help start my freshman year in college and hopefully the three years to come. As I am almost finished with my freshman year, I think it is amazing how fast two semesters of college go by especially when you don't have any financial worries of how to pay for extra college expenses. I am majoring in mathematics and minoring in computer science.

Since, I receive a small amount of financial aid I had to also accept loans to cover the cost of a whole year at the University of Texas. I also obtained a great amount of scholarships, but it all added up to just cover the total cost. The scholarship I received from the 11 ½ St. Foundation helped to pay for my books for the two semesters, fees, and extra expenses.

I hope that the foundation keeps growing and receiving more funds to help the students of Davis High School that are in need of a scholarship to start their year at college. I really want to also thank Ms. Kravetz for supporting her students and encouraging us to apply for this scholarship.

#### 3. Karen- University of Houston (2014)-Sociology

My name is Karen Sanchez and I am a grateful recipient of the 11 ½ St. Scholarship. I am attending the University of Houston Main Campus where each class is about 1000 dollars and increasing. The money I received helped buy my first year's books and without it I am not sure where I would have found the money for these books. So, I thank you all for donating what you can to this scholarship because believe me, it gives us just a bit more hope to know that someone out there cares enough about our education to pitch in to help.

One of the books that I bought with this scholarship was one which taught me very many useful things. Sociology was a class I walked into only to complete a core curriculum requirement, but as the semester went by I became to love the class and everything it taught me. It taught me about different cultures, ethnicities, and just people in general. It pointed out many shocking statistics that were both negative and positive about the world we live in today. This class opened up my eyes to many things about my surroundings that I was unaware of. This class has made me want to learn about my world and find a place in it for myself to make it better.

In conclusion, I want to thank you all again so much for giving me this opportunity to expand my knowledge. I know that giving the 2010-2011 seniors this scholarship and this opportunity can help them have just a little bit more hope to fulfill their dreams. If possible, I ask that you please continue to donate to this foundation because it is truly a blessing.

#### **4. Franky- Cornell University (2013)-Sociology and Dance**

I figured I would update you on what I've been up to at Cornell since the last letter I've written. I'm going to go ahead and provide an informal summary of my academic experience as well as extra-curricular activity thus far.

After deciding to declare as a sociology major at Cornell, I started looking into graduate sociology programs and found that I want to attend Rice University for graduate school. I have taken particular interests in population dynamics of urban areas, education inequality, and Latino studies all based off of the coursework I have completed at Cornell. I have decided pursue a second major in dance after establishing a sound connection between history, culture, art, and bodily aesthetic in the study of dance. I find that learning the art of dance from different perspectives gives great insight to many academic disciplines and I am now considering teaching dance in the future.

I have been highly active with my dance team, Sabor Latino Dance Ensemble, as my second year as the team's Head Choreographer. With the help of other team leaders, the team has become community oriented, providing many workshops for the Cornell community to learn from and attending more community service events. I have also become the Campus Visits Chair for CU-IMAGE, a Cornell student group that aims to boost application rates from underrepresented student populations, particularly African-American, Latino/a, and Native-American high school seniors. As the Campus Visits Chair, I pair high school students with Cornell ambassadors and arrange activities for them to participate in while visiting Cornell.

I feel happy with my Cornell experience and want to continue making the best of it as I enter my third year this coming fall. Cornell has given me the chance to grow in many ways as a student, leader, dancer, mentor, and person overall. I have had many great memories at Cornell with colleagues, friends, and professors and look forward to making even more in the years to come.

I am grateful for all of the support that I have had from my community at home to continue on my academic journey. I am particularly grateful for the financial support from the scholarship programs and their donors who help to make my journey possible. It is through your kind contributions that many students are able to finance their education and for that, I am ever grateful. Your contribution to the 11 1/2 Street Scholarship Foundation is

greatly appreciated and means a great deal to the students who receive the scholarship. Thank you for your support and dedication to the scholars of the 11 1/2 Street Scholarship Foundation.

#### **5. Diamantina - University of Houston (2014)**

I am writing to thank you for your generous *11 ½ St Foundation* Scholarship. I was very happy to learn that there are good people willing to help young adults like myself to go to college.

I am an undergraduate student entering to my second year at the University of Houston. I consider myself a very hard working person. I have done it since I was very young. If I was able to work then, I would surely do it now, but I have other major responsibilities other than school. I have a 3 year old daughter that I have to educate and love. I could work, go to school, and take my daughter to a babysitter but is more important for me to see her grow and nurture her.

Five hundred dollars might not seem a great amount of money but it sure was helpful to me. We all know how ridiculous the prices of the college books are. By awarding me the *11 ½ st scholarship* you have lightened my financial burden which allows me to focus more on the most important aspect of life, my daughter and school. I was able to pay some college expenses without actually having a real job.

Thank you again for helping Jefferson Davis students like me. Your generosity has inspired me to help others and give back to the community. I hope one day I will be able to help students achieve their goals just as you have helped me.

#### **6. Jose- University of Houston (2014)- Mechanical Engineering**

I am writing this letter to thank you for selecting me as a recipient for your esteemed scholarship that I received. I am grateful in your assistance for funding this scholarship and for giving me the opportunity to succeed in my education.

I am currently a freshman at the University of Houston and proud to be a cougar. The major I plan to obtain is Mechanical Engineering for Technology. I have had a great school year so far. My first semester in college was challenging because it was my first time being exposed to an environment that was different from high school. At the end of the fall semester my GPA was a 3.1. It feels great to have a high GPA starting off college but most importantly for making my parents proud of my success in school. As I continue to move forward with my education the standards I had gone by, have now increased my expectations for myself.

This scholarship has helped me financially and has eased my mind off of college expenses. I don't know how else to show my gratitude towards your generosity but to demonstrate it on my success in school. I will continue to achieve and to uphold the expectations that your foundation has towards my education. Thank you again for supporting this foundation that has open many doors for students like me to succeed in our education.