

End of year summaries/Thank you Notes
11 ½ St Foundation 2012 Scholarship recipients and 1 recent college graduate

Hello donors

End of freshmen year 2013

Thank you so much for the donations I received from all of you for my freshman year of college. *I went to Lakeland college in Sheboygan, Wisconsin* and had a wonderful time my first year away from Texas. It was a bit frightening being so far away from my parents and all other people I know, but I quickly made friends with some pretty cool people and really started enjoying myself once I got to experience my first classes.

Arriving at Lakeland I had decided that I wanted to major in Biology, so I took classes in biology first semester and loved the experiments that we worked on in lab. But what really got me was the Programming class I took. After I got to experience that class and how fun it was to be doing something I've always wanted to learn how to do as a hobby, I decided that programming is what I want to do. My major is now Computer Science, and also after taking a Discrete Mathematics course my minor is in Mathematics. In the end of my first year at college my GPA did not change much, so it's still a 3.5, but I'll be working hard next year to make it higher. I believe that going so far away for college helped me in so many ways. It was a clean slate where I can be whatever I wanted to be and not what my parents or anyone else wanted me to be. Plus the view of the corn fields right next to the school made me feel so free. We were surrounded by fields on all sides of the school, which was fairly small to begin with. It only took a few minutes to walk from my dorm room to my classes every day. The classes were nothing like I thought they would be and most of them were smaller than most classes in high school. There's also so much off time that I quickly filled with my new hobbies and even performed in the school play for the fall semester. It was called Soli Del Gloria. It was about a group of seniors that wanted to get rid of the library so that the school would have more funds for things like a pool. But the founders from the past came to convince them that the library holds important things and that all the students had a connection to it. In the end they kept the library and the donors went back to the past, both parties learning from each other. I worked on this play with the rest of the cast weekly until opening night and even helped build the stage which also took a while.

Thank you so much for your part in getting me there. Without your contributions I may have not been able to buy my books for all my classes. When I do graduate and get my programming career rolling I plan on helping out and donating to help more of Davis students that want to further their education as well.

Thank you,
Madeline P
Davis High School Graduate 2012
Daughter of an HISD food service worker

End of year summaries/Thank you Notes
11 1/2 St Foundation 2012 Scholarship recipients

Page 2

Dear 11 1/2 Street Foundation

End of freshman year 2013

My name is Elizabeth Cardozo and I was chosen to receive this scholarship last year. I am very thankful that I received the money because it truly was a big help. I currently attend the University of Houston main campus and the scholarship money I was granted helped pay for my books and other necessary materials for school. My brother is also in college and this money was helpful not just to me but for my parents as well. Receiving scholarship money reduced my parents' stress because they did not have to worry about providing money for two students.

My first semester at the University of Houston was challenging because the transition from high school to auditorium-sized classrooms is one that took some time getting used to. Thankfully I managed to pass my classes with determination and especially the help of my books. The classes that were the most interesting were those that had to do with my major. I am currently declared a Human Development and Family Studies major and plan to graduate within four years. The University of Houston is a great school with friendly people but the best thing I like about it is the many locations I can find to study in a quiet environment. The spring semester went much better than my fall semester my GPA went from a 2.6 to a 3.0. I discovered many workshops and tutoring services that helped me develop good studying skills. All in all UH has been going well for me and I am thankful I was admitted into it.

Once again thank you so much for your support and ability to help out high school students. Without the help of your scholarship or any other scholarships, my college experience would have been different. I am grateful I was granted this scholarship and I hope more students in the future continue to get the help they need to continue their education.

Thank you,

Elizabeth C
Davis High School Graduate 2012
First generation college student

**End of year summaries/Thank you Notes
11 ½ St Foundation 2012 Scholarship recipients**

Page 3

Dear donors,

End of first semester of freshmen year-Dec 2012

My dream since I first started High School was to attend college and graduate with a good degree that could make my mother and me proud. I had many people tell me throughout High School that my dream was not possible because I was an undocumented student. However, I was lucky to have a few people who did believe in me and supported me the best way they could. I want to thank the 11th ½ Street Foundation for granting me a scholarship that helped me pay for my first semester in college. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Ms.Kravetz for being an awesome teacher and encouraging me to attend a school outside of Houston that could make me grow as a person. Texas State University was definitely the right choice for me.

My first semester in college was great. I've met new fascinating people that I can now call friends. And as the semester progressed I have managed to figure out ways to study that work for me. I am proud to say that I passed all my classes and have a good GPA that will help me get some scholarships for next year if I keep up the good work. Towards the end I realized that marketing wasn't for me and changed my major to mathematics with a teaching certification because math has always been something I've loved. I know that this new major will take hard work but I am willing to put in the effort. My family is proud of me for attending college and encourages me to graduate.

Thank you, for being one of those few people that believed in me and helped me follow my dream.

Sincerely,

Karla G

Davis High School Graduate 2012
First generation college student

End of year summaries/Thank you Notes
11 1/2 St Foundation 2012 Scholarship recipients

Page 4

To the 11 1/2 St. Foundation Scholarship Community,

End of freshman year-2013

Thank you for your contribution to this scholarship fund. It was a great honor to receive this scholarships and I hope other calculus students take advantage of this opportunity. I was excited when I first heard about this scholarship and I was more than happy when I was notified that I received the 11 1/2 St. Foundation Scholarship. I know that the students who choose to take calculus in high school are students who want to learn and get ahead.

I remember the excitement I felt when I first walked to campus. The thought of starting a new chapter in my life felt great. I enrolled for 16 hours my first semester and it went by so fast! By the time I knew it, finals were around the corner and I had to push through. My main concern first semester was surviving chemistry. As sad as it sounds now, it is true. The lesson I learned the hard way in chemistry was that it is not a math course. Second, was my professor's mantra, "When in doubt calculate moles". I met a lot of new and different people in that course, but to be honest I was not looking for any distractions. For the most part I did not have any time for that. Most of the friends I made were in my study groups. In the end, my hard work paid off and I made all A's except for my B in chemistry. My first semester of college was an unforgettable experience that I enjoy sharing with others.

I am thankful for this scholarship, however I am more grateful that there is a small community who makes this award possible. Thank you for your support.

With best regards,

Joann C

Davis High School Graduate 2012

First generation college student

**End of year summaries/Thank you Notes
11 ½ St Foundation 2012 Scholarship recipients**

Page 5

Dear 11 ½ St Foundation

End of First Semester-Freshmen Year-2013

Thank you, for awarding me this scholarship for my first semester of college. It has helped me financially and I definitely put it into good use. I finish my first semester of college today with all A's and one thought in mind. If people are willing to spend money on my education, I should not waste it and work productively to make high marks, and I did. When I began my first semester, college was easy for me and the work was less stressing. As midterms came around the corner, the college environment got hectic and I began to worry. Once finals came along, it was dead week for all of us college students since most of us spent our time in the library trying to study for that math test next morning. I guess you can say that college is like Houston's weather, unpredictable and constantly changing. I've made up my mind that I'll keep my grades up and transfer to a 4-year university. Even though I'm still debating what would be the four year university I ultimately choose and what I want to do for the rest of my life, hopefully my heart leads the way. One thing is for sure, I would have not attended college if it were not for the 11 ½ St Foundation; and therefore, once again I thank you.

Sincerely,

Jessica F

Davis High School Graduate 2012

First generation college student

**End of year summaries/Thank you Notes
11 ½ St Foundation 2012 Scholarship recipients**

Page 6

January 1, 2013

Dear Scholarship committee,

End of first semester freshmen year- 2012

I want to thank you for making me an 11 ½ Scholarship recipient. I'm really grateful for receiving the scholarship because it helped me pay for my textbooks. Being a first time college student in my family it made it difficult for my parents to understand that financial aid from the government was not going to be enough to pay my college tuition. Being able to count on the money from this scholarship made it possible for me to purchase textbooks since my parents have no money to spare.

The first semester in college at the University of Houston was a really challenging yet exciting one. On the first day of college, being lost on campus was one of the challenges I had to face as a first time freshmen student. Although, the University of Houston had tents with people that helped students that were lost on campus, sometimes directions were very vague and it made it difficult to find a certain buildings. I was lucky enough that some friends from high school attended the same university as I did, so they were a great support through my first semester journey. Studying was my biggest challenge of all. Throughout high school I found that studying the night before the test was all I needed to do. But as my first college biology test was approaching, I let a lot of days pass by without studying. I felt that I could just study the night before the test and pass. When I received my test grade back I was really disappointed. Throughout the whole semester I learned how to manage my time better and study every day. Although, sometimes procrastination was my worst enemy when turning in assignments I managed to passed all my courses . Giving a presentation in college was really exciting yet difficult. I was really nervous that my presentation was going to be really bad and that I was just going to make a fool of myself. The fact that nobody knew each other in the class made it easier to present a power point. So as my face was getting red with nervousness, I started to present my power point and everything went great and I received an A. As of now I planned to double major in education and finance.

I really want to thank you for making my dreams of attending college come true.

Sincerely,

Marisol L
Davis High School Graduate 2012
First generation college student

**End of year summaries/Thank you Notes
11 ½ St Foundation 2012 Scholarship recipients**

Page 7

To Whom it May Concern,

Middle of Sophomore Year 2013

I feel so fortunate to have been chosen as a recipient of this scholarship. Thank you so much for your generosity in funding this scholarship. I'm currently attending Wesleyan University in Connecticut and am really enjoying it.

Wesleyan has been amazing. This year I took Elementary Korean. I've been started to take a real interest in Korean culture and having the opportunity to learn the language has been wonderful. Learning a new language can be difficult but it has been worth it so far. I've also taken a Schooling and Scarcity class which focuses on the American educational system's flaws. It's interesting to see different schools making a difference for kids just like this scholarship has made for me.

I really love the Wesleyan campus. I liked the calmer feel of a small town but still miss Houston. I like having to experience two different worlds throughout the year of city life and a more nature-focused one.

Thank you again for so generously supporting Wesleyan students. One day I hope to also be in a position to be able to donate to the college dreams of future college students.

Sincerely,

Ana C
Davis High School graduate 2011
First generation college student

End of year summaries/Thank you Notes
11 ½ St Foundation 2012 Scholarship recipients

Page 8

To whom it may concern:

End of freshmen year 2012

First of all, I would like to thank all donors for making this funding possible to all of us that were able to receive it. The scholarship saved me from getting my books late, and falling behind on my first semester of college. I will always thank all of the ones that put the effort in to help many of us that really needed this scholarship. Without this scholarship I could have been in much trouble, and that wouldn't have been good for my first semester in college. So thank you all for participating, and helping one more student.

Second of all, when the semester started I was more nervous than when I started high school. I started and was very anxious to know what the college life would be like. Before starting college I always wondered why people always said college was hard. Now that I've experienced my first semester of college I can say that all we have to do is to keep up with the good work, and not to let ourselves fall behind. I took sixteen hours which were General Chemistry, Exploration of the Humanities, and Exploration of the Arts, Applied Calculus, and US History Survey to Civil War. At first I thought it was too many hours, but all I did was put the effort into them and I'm glad to say I passed them all. I used the scholarship money to buy my books which I saw how expensive they can be even if they are used! I was amazed and learned to look for other ways to buy books, and save me some money. The rest of the money I used to help me buy me a laptop that has been very useful since now in the days there's homework, tests, and papers to do online at home. After all, this semester has been a great experience, and I will continue till I finish.

Finally, I believe scholarships are the best way to help many students that want to go to college and be someone. Scholarships can help someone so much even if it's just a small amount. College is very expensive, and I hope all of the donors can keep helping all of these students. That being said, I would gladly become a donor once I graduate, and start earning a living. Once again, thank you so much for help.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline Moreno
Davis High School graduate 2011
First generation college student

**End of year summaries/Thank you Notes
11 ½ St Foundation 2012 Scholarship recipients**

Page 9

March 16, 2012

Dear 11½ St. Foundation,

I am writing to you to thank you for the scholarship to you have given me. It is an honor to be looked as someone with the potential to graduate from college, and use the education receive from there and make a difference in the world.

The scholarship helped me a lot in the first semester, by being that extra support that was needed to get on the right track in my classes with the proper materials. Since college is well known for its expensive necessities, I was relief to be able to afford the books that are used in most of the classes I need for my major in Mathematics.

With the challenges that await me, I would like to again thank you for the boost that I needed in order to continue my education. Plus, with my goal of being able to teach students, I could then help students who also could need a little boost to get them going in their education.

Sincerely,

Manuel Vargas
Class of 2015
Texas A&M University
Davis High School graduate 2011
First generation college student

**End of year summaries/Thank you Notes
11 ½ St Foundation 2012 Scholarship recipients**

Page 10

I'm just writing to let you know that after four and a half years, I have graduated from UT Austin with a degree in English and secondary education. When I received your generous scholarship, I wasn't sure I would come this far, but look at me now!

Years of experience and learning made me realize that teaching is truly the only career path I belong in. During my student-teaching semester, I felt so happy and satisfied, both intellectually and personally--and that's what the college experience is all about. I wish every young person got the chance to experience what I did. Your scholarship was one of the components that made this achievement possible, and for that I thank you.

My future is looking very bright. For this upcoming school semester, I will be a substitute teacher at Austin schools and will be actively looking for a full-time teaching job come the fall.

Again, thank you so much for providing support when I most needed it.