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Howdy!

My name is Abel Betancourt and I am a junior accounting major from Mineral Wells, Texas, but more importantly I am the loudest and proudest member of the Fightin' Texas Aggie Class of 2015 (A-A-A WHOOP!)

I have spent an amazing four semesters at Texas A&M University. I am a first-generation Aggie currently working and on scholarships to fund my education. Currently being a student, I was able to figure out who I wanted to be as an adult, learn the ropes and responsibilities of life away from home and discover the beautiful value of an Aggie education. I am halfway through my college experience and have been taught by many wonderful professors. One of the professors who has made a particularly meaningful impact on me is my intermediate accounting professor, Shannon Deer.

What is really cool about Shannon Deer is she likes to go by her first name to make her students feel more comfortable. Shannon has been my accounting professor for two courses: Introduction to Financial Accounting in the summer of 2012 and Financial Reporting I this past semester. She is an amazing lecturer who truly cares for her students and makes sure we retain the knowledge and accounting skills needed to carry us forward into our future careers. Shannon, having taken the course herself as a student, showed us the ropes of navigating this very challenging course. Unfortunately, I started to get "rope burn" early in the semester. I e-mailed Shannon multiple times throughout the semester, asking her how I could improve, especially when my grades in the class were starting to lower little by little. She never showed a sign that told me she didn't care or had given up on me. Those are the professors I admire so much: the ones who believe their students can succeed, no matter how big their goals might be.

In class, Shannon would never turn down a question. She even explained in full detail the simplest questions asked in class. She made the students laugh and interacted with us one-on-one on work days prior to the exam. She definitely shows her love for teaching, and the students around her have such a deep respect for her.

When the end of the semester came around, I needed an 85 on the final exam. Pretty scary, huh? My personal thoughts were, "it's impossible," "I give up," "it's a cumulative Accounting 327 final...." But then I was reminded of how much Shannon helped out on so many questions, and it motivated me to do my best, to show her how much of her teaching, advice, help and friendliness impacted me.

I studied like I had never studied before for that final. I had to close my social life for a little bit and stayed up late into the night in preparation for the final a few days ahead. Many cups of coffee later, I took the exam and left the exam room feeling I had done my absolute best. Within two days I discovered that I did not make the 85 I wanted, but instead earned an 89.5! I was even more elated to discover I beat the class average by 15 points! My heart was seriously racing at that point, and the first thing I wanted to do was thank Shannon for all her help and time.

Moments like those have shown me I can reach my goals if I put in a lot of effort and dedication. Professors like Shannon Deer motivate students to inspire and accomplish their highest goals, but more importantly, value their Aggie education.

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Thanks, Shannon! You're the best!

Sincerely,

Abel Betancourt, Jr. '15

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