

Dear Scholarship donor,

The purpose of this letter is to say thank you for being a generous donor and trying to help students succeed, also thank you for Funding this scholarship to Denver kid students. I would like to start by introducing myself, my name is Maricarmen Crisostomo 18 years old, both of my parents are Guatemalan I was born and raised in Colorado. I joined Denver Kids when I was 14 years old, I had a rough start like many of the student that have joined Denver Kids. My freshman year I was at DSST College view, I had fallen behind in all my classes, I was failing all of them, also I was held back a year. I ended up giving up, I got introduced to Denver kids by Cristina Galvan who helped me find my purposed on what I wanted to do for my future. At the moment I chose to move schools, and Denver kids guide me to find the right school that I though was best for me. I moved to Excel Academy where I pushed myself to do better and try to graduate with my class. Denver Kids was my support team during the 4 years, I got introduced to a lot of leaders and people that till this day are still cheering for me to succeed. I graduated with my 2020 class even though I didn't walk or have a big celebration, I'm hoping that in 4 years things are better and I can walk with my college class. My community services experience has always involved helping others, I participated in a workshop with Moon Shot where I helped make food for homeless and we walked to Downtown to give them to those in need. One goal I have for the future is to become a social worker because I want to be able to help others succeed and help when they are in danger or in need, I want to stand up for the Hispanic women community. The Scholarship will help me reach my goals by helping me stay in school and helping me to push myself harder in school because I don't like letting no one down and it's amazing to know that people that know our story wants to help us, making me feel so proud to be in Denver Kids. Some of the challenges that I have faced are trying to stay motivated because during this time being in school is really hard for a lot of us, I love meeting new people and being in physical class and receiving help from teachers. I have overcome them by joining meeting to interact with others even if that's through a zoom call and also making sure to build a relationship with my teachers and ask for help because it's so important to ask for help when you need it, for so many years I decided to stay quiet because I didn't want to ask for help but I had to realize no one is a mind reader and if you want to make it you have to push yourself up there.

Thank you,

Maricarmen Crisostomo

