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I am the daughter of an African American and a Mexican immigrant; my curly hair and tanned skin have never been enough for either side and as a child, others did not welcome me. I spent many nights crying, laughing, and feeling confused, often incredibly angry and distraught. Assumptions were made and chances were not given; I dreaded going to school every day. To my peers, I was an illiterate African American; the truth however was far from that. I was raised in a household that only spoke Spanish, and my parents' plan was always for me to learn English in school. By second grade I was transferred to a general education class but was always self-conscious about my English and ability to read. Luckily, my parents understood and hired tutors, and I was blessed with amazing elementary school teachers. I can still remember the three women who shaped me into the student I am today. Mrs. Moore, Mrs. Sams, and Mrs. Cantu never gave up on me. I did not know it then but they taught me more than just math, science, social studies, reading, and writing. These women taught me how to deal with the harshness of life when it gets difficult --- how to over-come problems as simple as a forgotten locker combination, obnoxious peers, gossip, people doubting you, learning to ask for help in the face of self-doubt, how to push myself to concentrate when a million other thoughts and temptations are fingertips away. These three women taught me resilience. My resilience through adversity early on in life prepared me for life after school.

Over two decades later, I still value and hold onto the lessons I learned from them. My resilience has carried me through many obstacles, and I now know that school is not the most challenging time in a person's life. As a 25 year-old college student nearing graduation, I look back on my past feelings and am PROUD! I have survived through the semesters where I have worked two jobs and have taken 18 hours all at once. I managed to actually finish the last semester with a perfect 4.0 GPA. Not every semester has been this easy or successful, but I overcame them. I chose to take the opportunities that were handed to me in life and work harder to pass a class, not drop out, and graduate, no matter how far down I was. I got my life together and learned to sacrifice when things seemed impossible. Finding hope in my hopeless times took courage in the chasm; guts in the grave.

I am currently Vice3-President of the Be A Teacher Club, and in the Spring I will take over the Vice-President position for the Urban Educators Literacy Society at UHD. I am also a member of Tau Sigma national honor society at UHD. In the past year I have completed over 40 hours of community service teaching and cannot wait to have my own classroom.

When I found out I qualified as a nominee for the Woman's Club of Houston Scholarship, I was humbled and ecstatic. The email made me feel like my hard work had been recognized. Receiving a scholarship would really help my family and me financially. I would be able to cut back on my total hours for the semester at5 work, and my Dad could spend a little more time at home. With the extra time, I would devote myself to more service-learning and community service. Developing myself professionally is high on my priority list, and this scholarship will allow me to do that. Thank you for your time and consideration.