Nina Aguirre Attended Cypress Falls High School Expected graduation date: Fall 2015 UHD Student BAIS

"What Would This Scholarship Mean To Me?"

When I was in my senior year of high school, I took an early childhood class in which the high school students taught Pre-K children. This is where I got my first taste of what it would be like to be a teacher, and I have to say that to actually know what I wanted to do with my life was an unexplainable feeling. Before that class, I was a little lost on what I wanted to do after high school. I was an average student who did not have any talents or goals, but on day one in that early childhood class, I found my calling. My life was a little troubled; I grew up not knowing who my father was, and my mother always out trying to find someone who could replace him. I also never tested as well as my peers, so I was not a straight A student. However, it did not matter what was going on at home or what I made on a test; once I was in that classroom with those students I felt incredible and ready to teach.

Since then I have done everything to grow as a person, a learner, and a future teacher, and if I am selected for this scholarship, I would just be one step closer to achieving my goal in becoming a teacher. I am a mother of two and a full time student who strives to better myself as a mother and an effective teacher. Getting this scholarship will show my daughters that dedication and a willingness to learn can get them where they want to be. This scholarship would help my family and me overcome financial obstacles that so many full time students face; school supplies, gas money, and extracurricular activities for school are some of the issues I face weekly. I am an officer in the UHD Be A Teacher Club and a member of the UHD Urban Educators' Literacy Society. I have been involved in literacy events for the House of Tiny Treasures, a preschool for homeless children, and was a presenter at the 2014 Houston Area Association for the Education of Young Children (HAAEYC) Conference where I presented a phonological awareness lesson to teachers from different districts. I have always had a passion for helping people, whether it is school related or not, and I have always been that person who is approachable and supportive. I believe my desire to learn and help others pursue their aspirations make me a positive role model and will make me an effective teacher.