

Dear Jacqueline,

Congratulations! It's senior year and you are almost done with college. You should be so proud of yourself and all the efforts that you have put in in order to have made it this far. You are about to be the first in your family to graduate from college. It must feel wonderful knowing that you are about to accomplish one of your life goals, finishing college. Many people did not believe that an immigrant, Latina woman would have made it this far. But you are about to prove them all wrong. Don't forget you are not doing this in order to prove others wrong, but to prove to yourself that you are worthy of accomplishing anything you set your mind to.

A message to always keep in mind is to never forget where you came from, never forget the struggles and sacrifices that you overcame in order to come to the United States. As well as, do not forget the people who helped you along your journey and the ones who took time out of their day in order to help you get to where you are. Do not forget to realize how lucky and fortunate you are and don't forget your values and beliefs along your journey through college.

Like the saying goes, time flies fast when you are having fun. It almost seems like it was not too long ago when you were applying to college and you decided to come to Longwood University and be apart of the LIFE STEM and Honors Program. You have made new friends and met so many wonderful people already by being a part of these two amazing programs.

My goal for senior year is to earn a 3.8 GPA in Biology, having completed a study abroad experience, and have completed an internship by senior year. As well as hopefully be working as an assistant in the hospital in order to get a better feel of what it is like. Also continuing to volunteer in the Virginia water waves and continue being involved in the community as much as

you still can, including Family Box and continue thriving for one day to travel and help communities that lack medical resources.

Overall, this letter is made to my future self, in order to keep myself in check, and to also remind my future self the things that I value and should continue valuing throughout my years at Longwood. But the most important advice to myself is to not tear yourself apart only because your plans didn't go the way we wanted to. But as long as we get up and do better the second time, then we should be able to conquer and thrive in anything because with the amount of love, passion, and dedication that we have for a better future, is one of the greater powers that we can have.

Best of luck!

Jacqueline Amaya Hernandez.