A College Education Provides a Lifetime of Value

Onward and Upward

“I had a mentor once tell me, ‘You’re brought into this world with one last name,’” said Angelo State University (ASU) graduate Christian Garcia. “‘Make it more valuable when you leave.’”

A double major in accounting and finance, Garcia is taking major strides in doing just that. The grandson of immigrants looking to expand opportunities for their family, he was the winner of ASU’s Presidential Award as the top graduate in the Class of 2017.

Garcia also won a prestigious Dennis Boe Award for undergraduate research at the Great Plains Honors Council Conference and was named a Venture for America (VFA) Fellow by the VFA national entrepreneurship and community enhancement organization. The VFA fellowship stemmed from his 2016 internship at Goldman Sachs in Dallas.

“A San Angelo Central High School alum, Garcia was unsure about continuing his education. Through the help of his high school counselor and ASU’s Up & Coming Scholars college preparation program, he found himself applying to ASU less than a month before the application deadline.

“I applied and got in, and was like, ‘Look at that. Now I’m going to college,’” Garcia said. “I only applied to one school. Looking at it today, I’m super grateful ASU had the Up & Coming Scholars program in place, because without that, who knows what I’d be doing?”

“I’ve had quite a bit of success because of those people who impacted my life five years ago.”

In addition to the Up & Coming Scholars program, Garcia attributes his success to the dedication of his professors and to the ASU Honors Program.

“If I didn’t have the Honors Program, I probably wouldn’t have any of this,” he said. “I definitely credit the program for a lot of my success. The curriculum taught in the program helps you approach problems in a different way. You also learn to broaden your mind and to have a different perspective on the way the world and society works.”

Garcia graduated in May 2017. His ultimate goal is to start his own business, focusing on investments. One thing is for sure—he will continue to work hard and take advantage of opportunities, much like he did when he was accepted into ASU four years ago.

“I’d definitely say ASU chose me,” Garcia said. “It didn’t come down to me being stuck with ASU—the university opened doors for many opportunities.”

Angelo State University
Degree
Angelo State University, San Angelo, TX
Position
Venture for America Fellow at Nuovo Real Estate

Christian Garcia

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