**Thank You Letter to My Mentor**

My mentor was a beautiful, talented and wise woman whom I met when I first attended college as a young 20-something single mother. She was a college counselor, and had an easy-going, nurturing personality. In other words, exactly what I needed at the time, since I was new to the college experience, and could certainly use some guidance. Little did I know at the time that this woman would become like a second mother to me, gently holding my hand through some treacherous trials and tribulations. Her door was always open to me, and I often took free advantage. She never complained, although I'm sure at times I leaned on her a bit too much. Patience should have been her middle name.

Sadly, after I left college, we lost contact, but I never forgot her. I also never thanked her properly, and even now that I'm doing so publicly, words can never express the depth of my gratitude to this lovely woman. I often think about the words of wisdom she relayed to me about one of the most important lessons that college teaches you, and that is to persevere, no matter what. I have taken those words to heart, and they carried me all the way to my bachelor's degree, and beyond. I also share them with others whenever I have a chance. Because it occurs to me, that the highest form of honor we can pay to our mentors is to pass on to others the wisdom they so freely gave to us. So I thank you, Margarita, a thousand times squared, for everything you gave me, and may you always be blessed with the best this universe has to offer to one as special, gifted and wonderful as you are.

Smiles and peace,

Luana Higuera

Luana Higuera

Torrance, CA