**8. What is the one thing that you think sets you apart from other candidates applying to the University of California?**

Neither of my parents went to college. I come from a single-parent household. My mom has been a mail carrier all her life, and I have held a job since I turned sixteen to help save money for college. I never really had any extra money to spend on tutoring or any extra time for myself. While my GPA and my test scores may not be as high as other UC applicants, I have worked very hard and am very proud of where I am today and the path I took to get here.

While money does not come easy in my family, I somehow got the privilege to attend one of the best high schools in the most beautiful location. I wasn’t always this lucky. I spent half my life in a poorer neighborhood at a low ranking public school in a not so safe area. I wake up everyday and remind myself not to take the life I have now for granted because I know not every student is this lucky because at one point, I was one of those students. My past has pushed me to do anything that will help make me successful and happy in life, and it has helped me decide what I want to pursue: nursing, specifically, UCLA Nursing. I have known what I want to do since I was ten years old, and from that point on, I have tried to take every opportunity that brings me a step closer to my goal. My determination and expectations of myself drive me to overload myself at some times, but I always manage to maintain my GPA, while balancing a job, supervising at the hospital, and partaking in National Charity League, with dreams of attending UCLA next fall.