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Murphy Law Scholarship Essay

The Spark that Lit My Path

Since I was young, my parents have constantly reminded me of the importance of doing well in school so that I could one day go to college. They often encouraged me to keep up my grades so I would be eligible for scholarships. I listened to them, striving for high A's and staying involved in extracurricular activities throughout elementary, middle, and high school. However, at the time, I was not doing it for myself–I was doing it to make my parents proud. It was not until later that I began to realize that the person who truly inspired me to pursue a higher education was my sister.

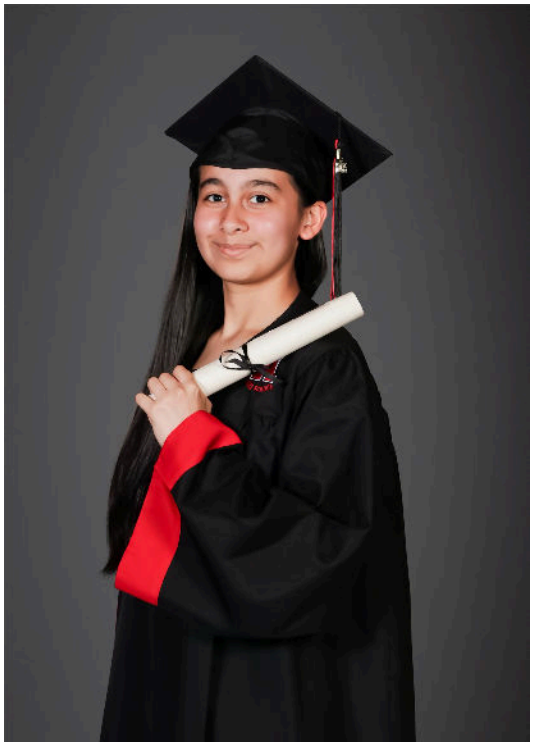
My older sister has always been someone I looked up to. She is not only the first in our family to attend college in the United States, but she has also been my role model, motivator, and biggest supporter. She helped me with my homework, encouraged me when I was struggling, and constantly reminded me that I had the potential to achieve great things. However, I was always in my sister's shadow. Teachers would accidentally call me by her name and only see me as her sister and not myself. At that time, I had wanted to become a teacher because I enjoyed helping my classmates wth their schoolwork, and many people told me I'd make a great teacher. I even chose to take the teaching pathway at my school, just like my sister did.

However, watching her navigate college with dedication and a clear path made me realize that higher education was not some goal I needed to fulfill but a stepping stone that was necessary for my future. I knew that I needed to find my own direction, so I began to explore other fields. I took a finance class as part of my school's financial pathway program, and I fell in love with it because not only was finance interesting, but practical. It is a field of study where I could build a future and help teach others make smart financial decisions, especially those from

low-income families like mine. For once, I was not following my sister's footsteps, but branching off from the path she paved and forging one of my own.

Interestingly, choosing a path different from my sister's helped me connect more deeply with my teachers. Since she had not taken the same finance-related classes, my teachers did not see me as "her little sister", but for who I was. They encouraged me, challenged me, and helped me grow academically. I also joined FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) to further develop my leadership, business, and finance skills. Through FBLA, I have had the chance to compete, network, and take part in community service. It has helped me become more confident in my passion for finance.

I became even more financially conscious thanks to my sister. I witnessed the sacrifices my parents made to support her education. I saw firsthand how hard they worked and how much they gave up so she could follow her dream. Since I had just gotten a part-time job, I decided to help out. I started covering my school expenses, as well as those of my younger siblings. Taking on that responsibility not only lightened the burden on my parents, but it also taught me valuable life skills like budgeting, saving, and time management. These real-world lessons deepened my interest in finance and made me even more determined to attend college in order to build a successful future.

There is no doubt that my older sister inspired me to go to college. While I remain incredibly grateful for the love and encouragement my parents have given me throughout my life, my sister helped ignite my passion. She reminded me that education is a powerful tool--one that can open doors, create opportunities, and change lives.

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