



## Future 5 Coaching: Meet Ricardo

*Ricardo Vivar's note of gratitude to his coach  
Lindsay Valk this holiday season*

Dear Lindsay,

*I honestly believe that if it weren't for you, I would not be in college today. As a sophomore coming from a single-parent household the only path I could envision was mowing lawns and painting homes after high school. Instead, I'm finishing the first semester of my freshman year at Southern as a Physics major in the Honors Program.*

*The thing you gave me for which I am most grateful was motivation. Sometimes I didn't see the point in working so hard on my college applications when I probably wasn't even going to be able to afford to go, even if I did get in. But you never gave up on me and convinced me it was worth it.*

*Currently, the only two things that are allowing me to afford college are a scholarship from the Patricia S. Heyman Foundation, an opportunity I wouldn't have had without Future 5, and a scholarship for the Honors College at Southern, and you helped me prepare for both. Without you I probably wouldn't even have applied to the Honors College because I didn't think I was good enough for it. As it turns out I am, and I would have missed this opportunity if you hadn't been there to push me.*

*There's a lot more I can say about your generosity and self-sacrifice for the sake of giving others the chance for a greater future, but what I want to say the most is "thank you."*

Happy Holidays,

Ricardo



**Future 5** helps motivated, low-income high school students in Stamford connect to their full potential.

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