Thank You

By Dominick Hernandez

Those of you, who know me, know that I’m not much of a talker, so please excuse me and bear with me while I give this speech. In all honest I can only patricianly accept this award based on any effort or merit that I have contributed to this campus and community. In large part, I am accepting this award on behalf of all of you here today, and those many more who were unable to be here.

I honestly would not be here today if it wasn’t for …

The encouragement of my professors whom challenged me to improve my self and to strive for excellence. Professors like Dr. Winifred Scott who is one of my first professors here at ASU and she is the person responsible for encouraging and supporting me in participating in student organizations. Thank you Dr. Scott.

I would not be here today if it wasn’t for …

All my Professors, like Professor David Forsyth, Beverly Johnson, Anna Gentry, Angela Giron, Maureen Schmid, Luis Padilla, Eric Thor, William Nganje, David Van Fleet, Hubert Reineberg, Gabriel Gonzales, Pamela Brooks, Antonios Printezis and also mentors like Mark Ebert and Otis White. Thank you all for sharing your knowledge and passion with me.

I would not be here today if it wasn’t for the increasable staff here at the ASU Polytechnic campus like …

Annie Brown, Paul Logan, Sarah Bennett, Julie Ashley, Shannon, Poling, Alison Cady, Jeff Bricker, Daun York, Shondalette Randolph-Williams, Jehnifer Niklas, Rachel Beech (GO ASU!), Joel Hutchinson, Robyn Mckay, Carla Mahnke, Mike Madder, Gary McGrath and many, many more. Without you there is no ASU Polytechnic!
I would like to give special thanks to Wadell Blackwell Director of Multicultural Affairs. Wadell is the person responsible for nominating me for the MLK Student Servant Leaderships Award. So, in a way you all can blame him and not me, for this incredibly long acceptance speech.

Wadell Blackwell and Joel Hutchinson were the ones who supported me and empowered me to be a leader. Without them, I would have never have taken those first steps towards participation and involvement in scholastic and community events and organizations. Thank you Dell and Joel for everything!

I would like to give a special Recognition to my parents, but especially my Mother Lessa Dee Hernandez. When I was in high school getting C’s and D’s, and wasn’t expected to do much more with my life other than just play sports and be an athlete. She was one of the few people in my life who believed that I was capable of much more. Mom, you are the reason why I have been working so hard scholastically, I wanted to prove you right.

Even though my Father was unable to be here, I would like to acknowledge him because he is my Hero. My father never sat me down and thought me the meaning of values like integrity, dignity, or leaderships. Instead he lives it everyday, and has thought those values to me by example. Dad, I hope that I can make you proud as I try follow in your footsteps.

I know that I left out a lot of people who are also responsible for me receiving this award, a lot of professors, staff, and especially fellow students, family, and friends. Please know that I am a product of all your efforts, all your hard work, and all your passion that you have brought to this great institution.

I want to take a salmon oath to you all today, that I will not waste these great gifts that you all have given me, but instead I promise in everything that I do, to make you all proud.

Thank You