

ESTHER ORTEGA GACHUZO

Spring Semester 2019

Survey of the Universe Honors

Music Appreciation Honors

History of American People to 1877 Honors

Public Speaking Honors

I started college in the Spring of 2016 at Northwest Arkansas Community College, I remember that I decided to compromise with myself to be an outstanding student in NWACC. I worked very hard to get high grades and learn as much as I could. When I knew about the Honors Program, I decided that I would apply to be a member and meet the teamwork that would help me to succeed in college life. The Honors Program got my attention because some of my classmates were in this program and they were such awesome people and they used to talk about how great the program was. The community projects that the program offered were also a reason of why I decided that I wanted to be part of this program. I am so excited to acknowledge that I was accepted and that I have this great opportunity to become a great student and a great member of the Honors Program.



Section 1: In what ways did the Program help you “demonstrate engagement,” “cultivate curiosity,” and “explore perspectives” (community, curiosity, and diversity)?

The Honors Program helped me to demonstrate engagement, cultivate curiosity and explore perspectives by providing me the opportunity to attend to different events in which I volunteered such as the invitation that I received from Sabrina Chesne, our Associate Professor and SKD Faculty Sponsor, to participate in service learning. I was very excited to attend; thanks to that invitation I had the chance to volunteer and help to sort eclipse glasses for the next eclipse that is going to take place in June 2019. We received thousands of eclipse glasses from all over the United States, and from countries such as Canada. I enjoyed having the opportunity to be able to help people from different countries. The cultivation of my curiosity started to grow as I started to be more involved on a daily basis with the Honors Program. Thanks to the help of all of the members of the Honors Program, I started to be more participative in the different activities on campus. Also, the enthusiasm of everyone in the program encouraged me to be more positive about what is going to be next. Diversity was very important because I started to get to know different people with different backgrounds and different goals, the opportunity to have conversations with them helped my mind to acknowledge how different an issue or basically anything can be seen from different points of view. The new perspectives that I discovered have become a new source for



my mind to try to change the way I see things and to try to think out of the box. I really appreciate the opportunity that I had to become a member of the Honors Program.

Section 2: How did this program prepare you for a university (or for a workplace, if you aren't transferring at this point)? What hard or soft skills will you take with you?



The Honors Program helped me to be prepared to attend to the University of Arkansas, which is the university that I am transferring to, by helping me to be more involved in different areas such as communication, and curiosity.

I remember when I started college, I was so shy and I did not like to speak out loud constantly during class sessions. After becoming a member of the Honors program, I started to be more secure and more convinced of sharing my opinions and my point of view in different subjects and discussions. My public speaking honors class helped me to study, practice, and learn the art of public speaking which is very important in the business world.

Due to the time that I spent with members of the Honor Program, I became more specialized in participating in group projects and labs, I started to feel more curious and excited to learn about the different ways in which my college life would be easier.

The Honors Program helped me to be more productive in different ways, such as the preparation to create an adjustable schedule that helped me to distribute my time efficiently and professionally to complete my assigned homework, projects, and also for study time.

Also, the Honors Program helped to learn and practice how policies of the businesses work, in which I need to realize that we all hope to work and believe in an ideal world, but in reality, we have a world with factors that change all the time and that sometimes we cannot change or help. The chance to have professional and realistic experiences help me to be a more successful entrepreneur.

Communication is absolutely the most important skill that I obtained from the Honors Program and from the honors classes that I took during my NWACC trajectory.

Section 3: What is one experience you had while a member that you'd like to share?

There are so many experiences that I would love to share with the world while being a member of the Honors Program, and one that I always used to experience on a day-to-day basis was the support and help that I received from the members of the Honors Program when I had problems with my homework or with any issue related with my classes. All of this used to occur in the lobby that is exclusively for the Honors members, there I asked for help and it is awesome how everyone is willing to help and contribute with me and the progress of my education. I absolutely love how the members of the Honors Program are always there to help everyone grow and become excellent students. Also, it is fascinating how we can approach and solve different problems with different ideas and opinions being shared in the room. This is why

I chose to share this experience with everyone because it is great to be part of such an amazing and supportive program.

Section 4: Considering all you have written for the above, what advice do you have for a new member?

I feel so lucky for being accepted in the Honors Program at Northwest Arkansas Community College and I am thankful for all the advice, the support, and the knowledge that I obtained during my active participation in the program. I am completely sure that everyone who meets the requirements to enter the program should go ahead and apply because this is an experience of a lifetime that nobody forgets. Being a member of the program will also give you some great perks like being able to register for classes around a week before the class registration opens for all the other students, the opportunity to apply for scholarships, and be able to get into the study room assigned only for members of the Honors Program. The Honors Program will give you the chance to make your college life more productive, in which you will become an excellent member of the community, you will obtain new skills needed in today and in our future, and you will have different opportunities to admire and learn from the amazing people who are part of the program.

