

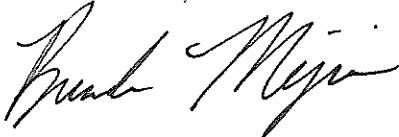
Dear Donor,

My name is Brenda Mejia and I was the award recipient for this year's Class of '55 award. I wanted to thank you extensively for allowing me to have the opportunity to be a part of an off-campus course that took place in Mexico. I am sure that without the aid of this scholarship, I would not have been able to be a part of this course. It is because of my time off-campus that I have gained valuable skills and knowledge that allowed me to grow professionally in my career, as well as aided my personal growth.

A personal goal of mine is to be college professor, teaching Pre-Columbian art to my future students, and it is because of this course that I was able to establish a strong base over this subject. I was able to see first-hand the murals, paintings, monuments, and sculptures that I have learned and will hopefully have the opportunity to teach in the future. The picture attached is of the view I had from atop the Pyramid of the Moon at Teotihuacan. I chose this picture because of its first-point perspective, so that it gives the viewer the feeling that they are in my shoes, seeing what I am seeing, and what I saw was amazing! This course was able to amplify my personal growth because I was able to learn about my own culture. Being able to experience my culture, language, and traditions when I have rarely had the ability to do so, is beyond words! I have returned to Cornell with a new sense of self and a greater appreciation for my culture.

Over all, having this amazing opportunity helped develop my liberal arts education, and I cannot thank you enough for granting me the chance to be a part of it. As one of Cornell's priorities is to develop cultural literacy, I am confident that I have returned with a broader world-view, first-hand experience, and a step closer to achieving my goal as an Art History professor.

Thank You,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brenda Mejia', written in a cursive style.

Brenda Mejia