



HORNBECK HIGH SCHOOL

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*Striving for A's:
 Achievement, Attendance, Attitude*

FAX


To: Diane Findley	From: Leah Williams, Counselor
Fax: 409.838.1871 409.835.1912	Pages: 4
Phone: 409.951.8080	Date: 3/17/10

Re: Thank you letters!

Comments:

Diane, Here are 3 of the 4 letters. I wanted to get these in your hands now and I will send Kaci's letter in just a short while!

Let me know if I can help in any other way.


 Leah Williams, Counselor
 NCC, NCSC

626 Roy Lee Snell Road
Hornbeck, LA 71439

Brent Coon and Associates
215 Orleans Street
Beaumont, TX 77701

Dear Brent Coon and Associates:

Although I am extremely grateful for the opportunity and honor to have received the James and Linda Rowe Memorial Scholarship, I am still deeply saddened by the loss of their lives. I appreciate having received this scholarship, but I am sorry for the loss that the family has suffered.

The money has allowed me to be able to pursue a degree as a Physical Therapist Assistant. I am attending school at Bossier Parish Community College in Bossier City, Louisiana.

The money has helped pay for my gas for me to commute back and forth between Hornbeck and Bossier City three days a week. It has helped pay for my books and the portion of tuition and fees not covered by the TOPS Tech award that I received from the state of Louisiana.

My future plans are to pursue a career as a Physical Therapist Assistant, but I am leaving the door open to the possibility of furthering my education and becoming a Physical Therapist.

This scholarship has made a huge difference in my life allowing me to pursue the degree that I've always wanted. This degree will allow me to fulfill my life-long dream of helping others. I would not have been able to do this without the James and Linda Rowe Memorial Scholarship.

Sincerely yours,

Kelsey Snell

2355 Lakeside Loop
Many, LA 71449
March 16, 2010

Brent Coon & Associates
215 Orleans Street
Beaumont, TX 77701

Dear Brent Coon & Associates,

When I heard my name called out to receive this award I didn't know what to think at first. To be totally honest with you I didn't know what had just happened. I just remember everyone clapping and then walking up to the stand to receive the award. After the graduation was over is when it really started to sink in. What a privilege and honor to receive such a gift. Again I would like to say thank you.

Since graduating in May I have been attending Northwestern State University in Ft. Polk where I am majoring in Nursing. I have plans this summer to move to Natchitoches where I will continue studying on main campus. I am learning more about the medical field daily and continue to dream of helping others. Since my college career started I am leaning towards maybe becoming a traveling nurse but I know my ambition in life is to help those in need. The scholarship has helped me pay for school in more ways than one. It has helped pay for my books, the tuition not covered by TOPS, my gas and it will continue to help with my rent in May. I have learned what I have heard my mom say a hundred times over ~ "Money doesn't grow on trees" and realizing just how true it is.

I was just telling my friend the story of how I received the scholarship. I told her about the BP Texas City explosion and who had lost their lives in this senseless accident. I feel very blessed to have been given the opportunity to apply for this scholarship. I explained to her that Hornbeck was the only school in the parish that awarded this scholarship as a way to memorialize Miss Eva's mom and dad. Then she told me how lucky I was to have received the money.

You have no idea how thankful I am to have this money to continue my education. I have greatly appreciated this scholarship since I realized just what it could do for me. Again I would like to say thank you and may God bless all of you who made this happen for me.

Sincerely yours,

Adam Bowling

Hornbeck High School



Joey Whiddon
Principal

Wilkie Richmond
Asst. Principal

Leah Williams
Counselor

P.O. Box 9 ~ 2363 Stillwell Avenue
Hornbeck, Louisiana 71439
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March 16, 2010

Brent Coon & Associates
215 Orleans Street
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There are times when "thank you" seems like such an understatement, and in the case of the James and Linda Rowe Memorial Scholarship, it is. The establishment of this scholarship has been one of the stellar examples of generosity that I have observed in my 17 years in education.

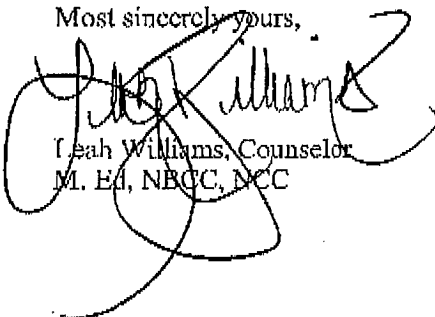
When news of the horrific tragedy of the BP Texas City Refinery explosion reached us that fateful day in March of 2005, we could never have guessed the personal impact and loss that it would mean for our small community. It was a day where the bad news got worse as the day went on: there's been an explosion, people have been killed, James and Linda were working there, they are missing. The words still send chills down my spine. These were people we knew! They lived here, Linda worked with us, we had watched Jeremy and Eva grow up right here in our school. Heartbroken doesn't even begin to describe how we felt as a staff. The tears flowed freely. The weeks and months that followed were filled with sadness as we watched Jeremy and Eva have to do something that no children should ever have to do: bury not one, but both parents. The word "why" kept resounding.

Time marched on, as it always does. Seasons changed. We went on about our business of educating kids. Then, we faced news that was completely opposite in nature—it was the good news. Eva didn't accept the settlement, Eva is fighting BP, Eva has won.....and then, Eva is gifting Hornbeck High School graduates. In a school where just over 50 percent of our students are on free or reduced fee lunches, can you imagine what kind of news this was? As sad and as tragic as the loss was, the news that our graduating seniors would receive assistance to further their education was incredible. Again, the tears flowed freely, but this time, for joy!

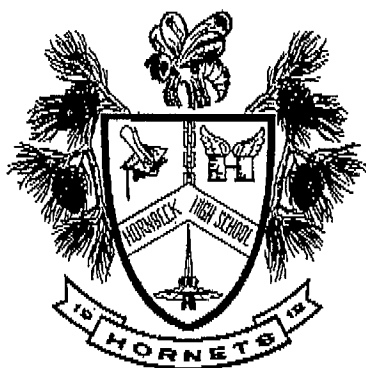
My heartfelt and most sincere appreciate to Eva Rowe for remembering Hornbeck High School students with the establishment of the James and Linda Rowe Memorial Scholarship. May God bless you, Eva, for giving to them and for encouraging them by your example of generosity.

In a world where the legal system is considered to be a "nightmare" on a good day, I can say that dealing with Brent Coon and Associates, and specifically Diane Findley, Legal Assistant to Brent Coons, has been an absolute joy. Thank you for making this process so easy and for your readiness to assist at any time that we need you. I appreciate you, Diane!

Most sincerely yours,


Leah Williams, Counselor
M. Ed, NBCC, NCC

Home of the Hornets



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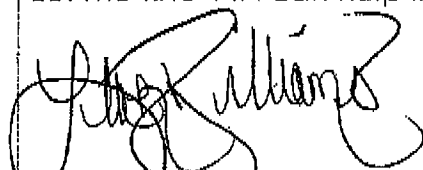
FAX

To: Diane Findley	From: Leah Williams, Counselor
Fax: 409.838.1871 409.835.1912	Pages: 2
Phone: 409.951.8080	Date: 3/18/10
Re: Final Thank you letter	

Comments:

Diane, Here is the final letter from Kaci.

Let me know if I can help in any other way.



Leah Williams, Counselor
 NCC, NCSC

667 Wolfe Hill Road
Hornbeck, LA 71439
March 17, 2010

Brent Coon and Associates
215 Orleans Street
Beaumont, TX 77701

Receiving the James and Linda Rowe Memorial Scholarship was such an honor. It brought to light the fact that wonderful things can come from horrific events. With this money, so many possibilities were opened for me. Now I know that getting my education does not have to be financially burdensome for my family. With this money I also have the opportunity to further my education after receiving my bachelor's degree.

I have been going to Northwestern State University for almost 2 years and working hard to maintain a 4.0. I am majoring in Psychology and after getting my bachelors I hope to get accepted into Occupational Therapy school, which is a master's program.

I feel so blessed that I was chosen to be the first recipient of the James and Linda Rowe Memorial Scholarship. Every semester when the money is used, I think about where the money came from and say a special prayer for the victims' families. This scholarship has opened so many doors for my future. My life has truly been changed by it and I cannot thank you enough!!!

Most gratefully yours,

Kaci Merriman