

Mona Lisa

Eight years ago I met this academy named after a delicious fruit from the Philippines, the Papaya Academy. After I graduated elementary school in 2005, Roosevelt College Rodriguez High School Department offered a hundred percent scholarship on the tuition fees because I was the valedictorian of our batch. But my mother hesitated to send me to that private school because the miscellaneous fee was big for our status. Then Kalinga chose me to be one of the Apple Scholars. This helped me to afford the miscellaneous fee until I finished my secondary education there. The school gave me quality education which I used until I reached college.

The financial support from the scholarship helped me a lot in my projects, books, uniform, and other fees I needed in my college studies. But you know, financial assistance is secondary, what matters most are the things I learned from the foundation that cannot be replaced by any amount.

The scholarship gave me opportunities for many things, one of them is the conversation with foreigners. I know how to write and speak in English, but to use it in a conversation with other people, it's a different thing. When I was in high school, I'm not confident conversing with foreign people but meeting with them for the foundation forced me speak and remove the block. This experience helped me to excel in my course which is related to communication.

The scholarship helped me to pursue and work for higher grades. This affects all of the people expecting at me, specially my parents, I made them happy, and that's what I wanted.

I also experienced to go to far places without the presence of my parents. I experienced enjoyable activities like shopping for 1 hour, swimming in a very cold water, cooking contest, facilitating an event, and etc. I also got new friends like Kuya Restty, Kuya Michael, Ate Aubrey, Ate Joanne, Ate Shiela, and Kuya Thaerone.

After I graduated from college, I would like to work in Philippine Information Agency, or in People's Television Network which is a government-owned station because I'd like to exert my effort with community development programs rather than making a story for the sake of profit and ratings, which I see in the private-owned stations. When I earn a lot, I would like to be one of the sponsors in Kalinga.

Another graduation, my plan is to study in conservatory of music. Making chorale music is my passion and my Chorale group to be internationally recognized is my greatest dream. I don't know when it will happen but I'll see to myself that I will do it.