

Jessica Cortez

Mr. Vranish and Ms. Vranish have been a very important part of the Cortez family. They played a huge role in my families' education. Ever since day one all I can recall is them telling us that there is a much bigger and better world beyond Tornillo. I'm pretty sure that everyone can recall a time when an educator told them that, the only difference was that Mr. and Mrs. Vranish showed it to us. They showed us the world and they granted us opportunities that will stay with me for a lifetime. Throughout the years I learned that it's okay to dream big because if your dreams don't scare you then you are simply not dreaming big enough.

I met these amazing people when I was about seven or eight years old and I am now attending the University of Texas at El Paso. If it wasn't for these two amazing educators I do not believe that I would be where I am at this very moment in life. I am now pursuing a degree in education in hopes that someday I will make as big an impact as these two wonderful, selfless and admirable people.

Era: Tornillo ISD Job: 2002 - 2013

Relationship: As mentioned in several Tornillo students' submissions, the district operated an educational incentive program – TAKS Trips. Jessica was such an excellent student; she qualified for, and participated in, many of the trips. This was no surprise as her mother was such a believer in a good education. The family moved to nearby Fabens – and we missed having them in our school. We still keep up with Jessica on Facebook.