

Ben Valencia

I'd like to start off by thanking the both of you for everything you have done for me. I have many fond memories of both of you, but what I really remember the most is the dedication you had to all the students. I remember going into the office of Ms. Vranish and asking her for help filling out a financial aid application or asking for help choosing and registering for the dual credit courses. Every time I went into her office I could tell right away she was really busy, but she never hesitated to help me and would always encourage me to return to her office if I needed more help.

I also remember Mr. Vranish educating us, during the TAKS Trips, on all the opportunities that are out there for us if we just worked for them. If it weren't for those trips that we took I would have never known how much we could really strive for. It is because of all your hard work and dedication that I received such a good education. You worked hard to make sure we had great technology available at our school and you also made sure we had a great school environment filled with hard working teachers that gave us a great education. It is because of all those things and many more that I had a strong foundation in my education that allowed me to have an easy transition into college. I have since obtained a bachelor's degree and I am now in graduate school and enjoying every minute of it. You guys have really had a huge impact in my life and words can't express how grateful I am to have had the both of you be a part of my life!

Era: Tornillo ISD Job: 2002 - 2013

Relationship: Ben, Class of 2009, and his wife Liz, Class of 2010, are Tornillo High School graduates who both travelled on the TAKS Trips program. Marla and Paul have fond feelings for them, both sets of their parents, and Liz' siblings. Paul has a special fondness for Francisco, who is Liz' brother. These fine young people come from really terrific families. We had the honor of attending their wedding; and try to stay up with them on Facebook.