

To whom it may concern,

Very few people throughout life discover what it means to be passionate about something. Begin passionate about your work not only gives purpose, but fulfillment to your life. For me my passion is Computer Science. With this, it is a great pleasure that I find myself with the opportunity to write about Dr.Ceberio. My academic career began in another state, where I first enrolled into college as a math major. No one in my family had ever been to college before, but I figured I could try to break the trend. I spent some time working towards a degree, before I dropped out and began supporting myself with job in the construction business. A higher education didn't seem possible, and I eventually found myself in El Paso trying to start a new life. Since I was here alone and on the verge of being homeless I enrolled in school, which was more of a safety net than a profession. I decided then that my major should be something I thought would come the easiest to me, that is Computer Science. My first semester there is when I met Dr.Ceberio, where she would encourage me to get involved in school, and eventually invite me onto her undergraduate research team. She challenged me with problems presented to the group, and my interest was sparked. Throughout the semester what had previously been a way to stay afloat was quickly becoming what I would wake up for in the morning. It was in that first semester when I realized what I was put on this Earth to do. Dr.Ceberio had become a mentor for me, in a literal sense. Not having a figure to look up to, I'd often look to the successful people around me as a standard of how I should grow myself. As my involvement in the group grew I was brought into fields of thought that I had never heard of, each presenting itself with a new problem and new intrigue. I would travel to numerous conferences, meeting other like-minded people from across the world as we continued to work together academically and professionally. Before I had known it, my outlook was completely change from what it was only a couple semesters ago. She put an influence onto my life that changed my future forever. Dr.Ceberio is someone I strive to be not only as a leader, or academic, or professional, but as a person. She is a role model, and a true mentor for people like me who share the common like-mindedness and passion for computer science.

- Phillip Charles Hassoun

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phillip Hassoun", written in a cursive style.