Dear Jesse,

Congratulations on your graduation. You honor me by asking for a few memories of our time together in Grant and Proposal Writing, English 450. I was continually impressed by your imaginative hard work in class and your generous vison of what real success looks like.

You work throughout the semester was astounding. You chose to intern at the Cardboard Playhouse Theatre for Children (CPTC). Throughout the semester you created a myriad of documents: posters, thank you letters, proposals, and appeals letters, in wonderful colors as well as black and white. All demonstrated the love, excitement, and possibilities children’s theater promises. You also drafted and redrafted papers to craft winning proposals. You extended your work beyond class requirements to conduct interviews, attend board meetings, and design and conduct a community survey which yielded valuable data on CPTC audiences.

While the quality and volume of your work excited me, more inspirational was your spirit. You entered the class with a joy that was contagious, eager to share your survey results or latest research with your tablemates. Success for you has always been more than just an A on a paper. Rather, that A has been simply a vital step toward your larger vision for CPTC and for our community.

For you, creating a home for CPTC meant building “a safe place where art, expression, and creativity can flourish.” You wrote of theatre as “a space where thinkers and shakers can come together and make beautiful art, … an outlet where children are able to express themselves, come out of their shells, and be truly who they were meant to be.”

Jesse, the world is in a strange place right now to say the least, but when I think about you, and young leaders like you, filled with passion for creating a future of positivity I have faith, faith in you, your work, and the future we will share.

“Theatre,” you once wrote “is so much more than memorizing lines and dancing on cue. It is providing confidence and a sense of pride in a young life. With these skills, we are creating a better future for the children, and the future leaders of Albuquerque”