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My family and ancestors have been involved in unions for 3 generations (over 100 years), from my great-grandfathers, to my grandfather, and now my parents. In the first generation, both my great-grandfathers were active in unions: one in the Teamsters and the other in the US Postal Office Union. The second generation is my grandfather, who is a member of BAC Local 3. My parents are the third generation of union members: public school teachers in national (NEA), state (CTA) and local (MTA and SEA) chapters. Unions have strengthened the workforce, bettered working conditions, and regulated fair employment practices and safety for all, even more prevalent today. Like union members and all adults in my family, I understand the importance of working hard. With a good work ethic in high school (and now in college), I've achieved my goal of straight "A's" all four years of high school and participating in two varsity sports: Tennis and Track and Field. I've dedicated myself to volunteering, and improving our community. I culminated my 14-year career with Girl Scouts by earning their highest award last June, the "Gold Award", and finished my two-year service term on the Council's Board of Directors.

This is my first year at U. C. Davis (UCD), where I've achieved a 4.0 grade point average. I've earned additional college units by passing Advanced Placement (AP) exams in Calculus, Biology, and History. This has allowed me to take more Japanese major classes. I find myself striving to achieve the same goals at UCD as I set in high school; this includes academic excellence while staying involved with the UCD community. At UCD I am active in Circle K Club (Kiwani-based community service club), intramural tennis club, and running at the on-campus ARC (Athletic Recreation Center), and participating in an experimental college class this quarter with 17 units. Just like the three generations of Nelson union workers before me, I'm dedicated, ambitious, responsible, respectful, reliable, honest, and sincere. I will always be grateful for unions, support them, and the people who have helped shape my future and the young woman I've become.