

Estrella Lopez (2007 Sportsmanship Award winner)

By: Sarah Vernon

After her first year of college, Estrella Lopez is keeping busy at New Mexico Highlands University. Between intramural sports, joining the Black Student Association, and currently pursuing a position for Obama's campaign in Las Vegas, she is making the most of her free time as well as taking a full load of classes.

Estrella is majoring in Elementary Education and minoring in Special Education. She says the PVWH Scholarship she received went straight towards her school, and helped to pay for her tuition and books. The number one thing that Estrella learned from participating in high school sports was time management skills, which is a huge help in maintaining her busy schedule and a 3.94 G.P.A.

She can still be found participating in sports, but as a coach instead of a player. Estrella coaches a girl's elementary basketball team in the summer and she also helps out coaching the Las Vegas Middle School volleyball team.

Estrella's hard work in her high school classrooms have definitely paid off. The Concurrent Enrollment classes she took in high school counted for credit at NMHU. She is currently classified as a junior even though this is only her second year of college. She could be done with her degree and teaching within about a year and a half, but she has decided to pursue a masters degree right away.