September 25th, 2015

Financial Aid Office,

My name is Jorge Garcia-Lizarraga and I have recently been accepted to the University of Houston for the Fall of 2015. I am writing to respectfully request consideration for appeal of my financial aid award package. I am extremely grateful to for the grants and loans and that were awarded to me thus far, however I still have a large gap in my financial aid that would make attending your school an impossibility. I feel that my circumstances are unique for this current year and would like to explain why my family financial situation will most likely change in the future:

My father and mother were both working through this past year of 2015. However, my mother suffered a mild health issue and voluntarily left her work to recover. Not much later, my father lost his job at Baker Hughes. For the year of 2015-2016, my Estimated Family Contribution does not reflect my parent’s ability to pay for college. My mother’s job loss did not affect us too much. However, my father’s lay-off has put us in a very troubling situation. With half his salary of $64,000.00 consisting of overtime, in order to afford my education, his total job-loss has rendered us unable to cover the cost. We are now struggling to keep up with our quotidian costs. My parents are not professionals, but rather laborers. My father worked for decades and established the right connections to get to where he was. He has been searching tirelessly for a job that can replace the income from the one he was laid-off from. However, until then, our ability to pay the cost of a college education based on our current EFC is impossible. My father has picked up a job as a host/kitchen aid but is barely scratching $2,000.00 per month in combination with unemployment. My mother is sending out resumes everywhere, in hopes of helping my father keep up with our bills. My family is now experiencing a large, unexpected deficit of income that is rendering us helpless. I have picked up numerous loans and can still not cover the cost.

I hope that my financial aid package can be re-evaluated keeping in mind that the Estimated Family Income is no longer reflective of our ability to pay for college, much less the financial burden that my family has experienced these last two months. I hope you will take these details into consideration as you review my financial aid application for this year. The University of Houston’s engineering school has been my dream school since I first started the college application process, I have withstood experiences with my fellow peers that I will likely never forget, I, quite frankly, want to be here. This school has offered me an experience that I could never forget, and would hope I earn the privilege to continue my education here. Thank you for your time and please contact me if you need any more information.

Sincerely,

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