In the Matador Song, Red Raiders will sing loudly at the top of their lungs to “bear our banners far and wide”. While I didn’t go very far and wide from Lubbock (I’m a short 5-hour drive east in a city called Dallas), I always live by that mantra. I have first-hand experienced the benefits of having a degree from Texas Tech University and I continue to speak highly of Texas Tech in my professional and personal life.

Now that I’m two years removed from my time in Lubbock, I realized that not every university is dedicated to preparing its students for the outside world as Texas Tech is. As a first-generation college student, my parents and I were clueless on how I would get a job in the real world. It was worrying to see the student loan numbers rack up, while remaining uncertain if I would be able to support the inevitable payments that came along with them. However, the Rawls College of Business went above and beyond in preparing me for a post-grad world. Whether it was creating a LinkedIn account or applying for internships, the business college encouraged me to think past my college years and gave me practical steps to ensure my success.

When you are a freshman, you realize that you only have four short years to build up a resume that stands out in a tough and competitive job market. Getting your foot in the door can be a daunting task but luckily for me, Texas Tech constantly educated its students on what to do to create an interesting and eye-catching resume. My freshman and sophomore years consisted of joining professional organizations, taking leadership roles in my sorority, and studying abroad to Spain to expand my cultural surroundings. The school encouraged all these actions so that companies could see that you were a student that had interests outside of football tailgates and the classroom. When I started interviewing for internships, I was surprised when interviewers would ask me questions about my leadership positions and my summer in Spain. It calmed my anxiety to know that I had valuable experience which led me to land an internship with an oil and gas company. By the time I was a senior, I knew in my heart that I could secure a job and be a valuable employee to a company. Since my graduation in May of 2016, I have been employed at TXU Energy in Dallas, TX. I have been given exciting career opportunities here and received countless praises for my hard-work and determination. I foresee an exciting and gratifying career because of my education. However, I wouldn’t be where I am at today if it wasn’t for Texas Tech.

If anyone asks me about my college experience, I always tell them that Texas Tech really cared about what their students did outside of their walls and if the student is willing, TTU can give you the tools to excel in the professional world. I will continue to represent the values Texas Tech has instilled in me and further spread the good word on the place I called home in Lubbock, TX.