

My name is ShuNing Lin. I'm a senior student majoring in Asian American Studies and Psychology. I joined Stony Brook University's teacher preparation program in 2019. I want to become a Chinese teacher before seeking a certification as an ESL teacher. My family moved to America when I was 10, so Chinese is my native language. I went to High School for Dual Language and Asian American Studies to learn more about Chinese language. In my high school, I met some wonderful teachers as well as some terrible teachers. I remembered my 9th grade English teacher planned many fun activities every Friday. She would put Thanks God It's Friday as our aim. We get to listen to English music, watch movies, or started a debate. She made Friday much more fun to us, and made me understand what a great class should be like. However, when I stepped into my sophomore year my life became much more difficult. Chemistry was never my strength. I struggle so much in that class. Geometry was also creating challenging. All my friends were telling me that geometry was easy. I began to wonder whether I actually were stupid. I worried so much that every school day I would wake up with anxiety. My mental health was at risk, but I didn't know how to help myself. Every time I tried to talk to my teacher, she made it sound like I had poor grade because I was not trying hard enough. I eventually ended up studying psychology. That course helped me calm down and discover myself, so it became my second major when I got into college. I enjoyed every psychology class I took. I met another wonderful teacher in my sophomore year summer vacation. I met her in my SAT summer tutoring school. She was an old lady but full of wisdom. She is able to teach so many subjects in high school and college. I admire her so much that I wanted to become a teacher like her. When I got into college, I met my martial art coach. He was full of life and energy. He can talk to anybody and build a connection. He gave me confidence to talk to people.

These great teachers made me who I am today. I look up to them, so one day I can become like them.