

The Southwestern Alumni Office  
2451 Atrium Way  
Nashville, TN 37214  
Dear Alumni:

1-21-00

Coming from a family of eight children, the one goal that kept us focused was that of completing our college education. All of us had to pay our own way through college; three of us are Southwestern Alumni; and four of us are teachers today. I have taught high school for 17 years, and now I teach at a middle school. It has been a busy career, but very fulfilling and rewarding.

I have been nominated on several occasions to Teacher of the Year status, and finally I was honored for the 1999-2000 school year as my school's Teacher of the Year. Of course, in the process I had to acknowledge the influence of The Southwestern Company in the development of my teaching style, methodology, and more importantly my attitude. The life-long skills of making new acquaintances, listening to their needs, providing a service, and managing all the details that make up a thriving business, as it was with the Southwestern experience, contributed to the same success I have enjoyed with teaching.

The Southwestern Company gave me an opportunity to envision what laid ahead in my future. Like my first sales manager, Ralph Holewinski, said: "It will let me know how I wanted and did not want to live the rest of my life." It put me in a situation where I had to make decisions that would affect the lives of many besides my own. It reinforced the value of service to the community taught by my father. But the one factor that I am most appreciative for is the opportunity to overcome my lack of confidence that I foresaw would be necessary to become a successful classroom instructor. My nine summers with the Southwestern Company paid for my education at the University of Notre Dame and Ball State, my plane tickets home to Puerto Rico on Christmas, and the confidence to meet my wife Susan that has given me two wonderful children named María and Simón.

Thanks for the educational service you, The Southwestern Company, has provided me and so many others. I am definitely a better person and a better teacher as a consequence.

Sincerely,



Peter E. Conrad, Spanish Teacher  
Southwestern Company Dealer, '73-81