In what ways are you challenged?
I am challenged in every class by having to think quickly, realize my strengths, and speak publicly. I am challenged to think beyond the normal answers and think critically on how I want to make a difference through my endeavors. The baking challenges me to be a team player, think analytically when preparing our dessert, and to be a great listener. It also challenges me to be a teacher/friend to the Avenue Scholars.

What are you learning?
I am learning the most influential hands on skills I have learned since my time at Creighton. I am learning to be a mentor, an imaginer, and a leader. The baking aspect of the class has allowed me to connect with my mentees on a level playing field. I do not feel that I am an authoritative figure and I am allowed to connect with them through a task like baking. I have learned that in order to make a difference, you have to put yourself at the avenue scholars level and work with them, not for them. I have learned to be a friend.

Innovation and Integration in the Bakery allows for an “engagement with the real” and as Adolfo Nicolás comments, “there is no real, deep encounter that doesn’t alter us.” Students uncover judgments and assumptions that effect how they perceive the power of business in diverse communities. The gap that is a mile wide the first week of class quickly closes. Students talk candidly about their potential, limited or limitless, and how they view themselves as future business men and women. Many of these students never recognized this possibility before.

“Who benefits from the knowledge produced in our institutions and who does not,” Nicolás questions. “Who needs the knowledge we can share, and how can we share it more effectively with those for whom that knowledge can truly make a difference, especially the poor and excluded.”

The partnership we have with the Avenue Scholars is a tremendous opportunity to heed the challenge for globalization, or rather, to close the gap between the “knowledge societies” that are inherently present in our community. Comments that the Avenue Scholars share with Creighton students are not replicable by either instructor. Deep encounters with the real abound within the four walls of this bakery.