Hi Raffi,

Thank you for letting me know, and welcome back! I'm really sorry to hear about the decision to sunset the Epicenter. I can only imagine how difficult this must have been after all the effort you've put into building and growing it over the years.

I also want to sincerely thank you for everything you've done for me. Joining the Epicenter has been one of the most meaningful experiences during my time at UCLA. You recognized my interest in AI and gave me the opportunity to explore how AI could be applied in a real workplace, rather than just learning about it in the classroom. That experience has shaped my career interests in a way I truly didn't expect.

I'm especially grateful that you encouraged me to participate in the Innovation Challenge and connected me with Ferrazzi Greenlight. That opportunity has now led to an ongoing collaboration with their research team, and it helped me discover the kind of work I genuinely want to pursue in the future. Looking back, I realize none of that would have happened without your support and encouragement.

While it's certainly disappointing that the Epicenter won't continue, I don't feel that the work we did was wasted. The automation projects taught me an incredible amount about AI implementation in real organizational settings, and those lessons will continue to influence the work I do moving forward. I'm very grateful that you trusted me with the freedom to explore and build those solutions.

As my role comes to an end on July 15, please let me know if there's anything I should do to help wrap things up or if there's anything I need to complete with HR or the university. I'd be more than happy to help make the transition as smooth as possible.

Finally, congratulations on your upcoming retirement. I truly hope you enjoy this next chapter. You have made a lasting impact on many students, and I know you've certainly had a profound impact on me. I hope we can stay in touch after your retirement. I'd love to

keep you updated on where my career takes me, and if you're ever open to it, I'd really enjoy catching up from time to time.

Thank you again for everything, Raffi. I genuinely can't thank you enough.