

As a child, I would often be asked, “What do you want to be when you grow up?” Many times, I would answer by saying I wanted to be a doctor. Yet, towards the beginning of high school, I became unsure of what I wanted to do. It seemed to me that there were so many options and I was confused as to what pathway I wanted to take. It was not until my senior year in high school when I was enrolled in an Advanced Placement Spanish Literature course, when I suddenly became interested in the subject. After this course Spanish became one of my favorite subjects and I wanted to learn more about everything.

Growing up I always heard my parents say that I needed to focus in school and get a better job than the ones they had. They would say that they immigrated to this country to provide a better future for my brother and for myself. Those words stayed in my head because I saw how my parents killed themselves at work. Agriculture is a tough job, but that did not stop them. I believe they are my inspiration, I have always wanted to make my parents proud of me and for them to see that all of their hard work will pay off. Further, I now have an even more significant motivation to further my education, my daughter. I want her to see that a Latina woman can finish college. I also want to provide a better future for my daughter.

I have learned so much while attending California State University Monterey Bay and being a Spanish major. My fellow Spanish students are united and have made the learning experience here worthwhile. Not only have they made me feel welcome, but they have also made me feel like part of a family. Thanks to my peers, I am not alone in the journey of obtaining my B.A in Spanish. The classes that I have taken have made me learn more, not only about the culture but also about myself. For example, in taking Spanish 365 Chicano Narrative, I have been able to identify with a lot of the stories we have read in class. Not only was I able to

identify with the readings, but I also learned a lot about my culture that I was unaware of. Not only did I learn a lot from the Spanish 364, but I also learned a lot from taking Spanish 330. Spanish 330 opened my eyes to the history that has occurred and I was blinded to it since we never learned about such topics in regular Spanish classes.

My main objective is to become a Spanish teacher. Yet, I would like to teach students more than just the language, I want them to dive into the culture and come to understand the people that speak this language. In particular, I would like to focus on heritage of Spanish. I believe a new generation of children is emerging that is not comfortable with Spanish, even though their parents are proficient in the language . I hope that they will fall in love with the language and culture just like I did. I want them to move beyond enrolling in Spanish just because it is a requirement. Instead, I want to maintain the language alive. Let the country know that Spanish is here to stay and it will not be extinct. That would be my main goal.