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**My Dream, My Goal**

Every college student has a goal in her life. To get into it, she has a journey with obstacles that makes her more strong to confront the world. Mariana Rua is the name of an extraordinary and intelligent person, that I had the honor of interviewing some weeks ago. The main purpose of this personal conversation was to share with others, Mariana’s education life, her dreams, and goals during and after college. As a result of this interview, I met a wonderful person, with a dream in the education file as a Spanish Teacher. Mariana wants to let know society that everything is possible with dedication, passion, and love.

Mariana is currently in her first semester of her senior year at CSUMB. She is from Soledad CA and is twenty fourth years old. The first major Mariana formally declared at Hartnell College was Nutrition. She chose that career because she did not know exactly what to study for, and Mariana thought health would be perfect. However, in her second semester in College and after being taking Spanish one, Mariana remembered how she enjoyed Spanish literature when she was a Middle School student. She explained to me that her teacher named Patricia made her love literature, specially novels from Paulo Coelho, and Gabriel Garcia Marquez. Was at the moment in where she decided to change her major. In her words she said “I was confused about my career, it was until I remembered who my favorite teacher was. My Spanish teacher made me want to read by passion and not by obligation. She is my inspiration for what I want to be.” Adding to this, Mariana said that she enjoy write and correct essays, analyze poetry, novels and stories. In my personal opinion the best way to know that you are in the right career is when you feel comfortable and happy on what you do, and in this case Mariana does. Julie Schroder in her article “7 Ways To Know If You're On The Right Career Path”, says “You’re a M.A at what you do. The work you do is inspired from the gifts and abilities you were born with.” Mariana also said that many members of her family did not understand why she is study Spanish when there is not good job opportunities on it. I was so surprise of her answer to that comment. She justified her career election by saying “Spanish as well English and others languages is beautiful, and there will always be someone who is interested in learning Spanish, also we are living in a country in where Spanish is in high demand, due to the high Hispanic-speaking population.” All her arguments are true because in the United States, more than 41 million people speak Spanish, and it is the most studied language in High Schools and Colleges (Dylan Lyons). Even though, Mariana is not sure yet about her teaching level, I know that she will be able to find a good job wherever her decision will be.

Being part of the World Languages and Cultures Department at CSUMB Mariana has been having the opportunity to explore more areas to do with a B.A in Spanish. This includes, translation, international business, and madia. I ask her if any of those areas was more attracted to her attention than being teacher. Mariana said that is so important to have a general knowledge. However, she knows that she is in the right path because she loves teaching, and that was something she noticed when Mariana was working in her community service learning hours in her community high School. She was working with freshmen and sophomore students. Some of her duties were help them with classwork assignments, translation for those who were learning English, discipline, and sometimes she donated her time for the after school program. From that experience Mariana reaffirmed her decision to being a teacher. She expressed her passion for been a role model for students, and she is so happy for this great opportunity that CSUMB offers with this requirement.

When I asked Mariana what area of the Spanish Language would her like to teach, she said that she would like literature. In her words she said “Literature is an open door to the Latin American world. I would like my students to remember their roots and learn that our culture is very rich in knowledge, and if they are not Hispanic descendants I would be happy to share my culture, our culture because if we have something in common all of us who live in this country is that our history of colonization unites us.” What I liked about her comment was the way in which she seeks to consolidate a solid union. She invites everyone to be part of her class, and that is fundamental for someone who wants to be an example for others.

To be a Spanish teacher the first thing is to obtain a B.A. in Spanish, and Mariana is working on it. Marina explained that the biggest obstacle has not been her journey through the university. However, high school was. She immigrated to this country when she was seventeen years old. Learning a second language was a great challenge. Nowadays she is preparing her Capstone, which it is her exit key from her college education. A second requirement to be a Spanish Teacher is the CBEST and CSET exams. In order to teach Middle School and High School levels, Mariana should pass both exam to get into the Teaching Credential Program of CSUMB, “Before graduating with your bachelor's degree, you will want to have prepared for and passed two state exams: the CBEST and the CSET Multiple Subjects exams. “(Teaching Credential Program CSUMB) At this moment Mariana is waiting for her CBEST results. She took this exam two weeks ago, and she is so positive about it. Marina will take the CSET after she pass her CBEST. The third in last requirement before become a Spanish Teacher is to work so hard in the credential program, getting good grades in the required courses, and have a good performance in the classroom where she will be doing her practices. This process will be taking approximately a year including summer classes. Mariana told me that she is planning to stay at CSUMB and be part of the Credential Program. However, Mariana is also taking in consideration apply for her master at San Jose State University. If she goes for ir, she will not need the CBEST exam, but without the Teaching Credential Mariana only can teach at a college level.

Job opportunities for Mariana exist, but it depends on her decision on get her Teaching Credential or her master. According to the website indeed, exist 7,837 new open position across the country for Spanish Teachers at all level. Most of those new jobs are for 7-12 grades, which means Mariana has more opportunities with her Teaching Credential. But, that does not mean that she can not work in a college, it will be a greater challenge to find a job, and more because she does not want to move from her city, but nothing is impossible, she is so confident, and positive on what she wants.

For her future, Mariana thinks on get her Phd because since she was a little girl Mariana dreamed of being a doctor. Today, she has a clear idea, she wants her PHd in Spanish Literature to complete that dream. The only thing she is afraid of is do not be able to finish her career. She knows that a professional career is not easy. It request dedication, passion love, and the most important money. According to [FinAid.org](http://www.finaid.org), the average cost of master’s degree for students is between $30,000 and $120,000. The cost varies depending on the university and the master’s program itself. A professional career is so expensive, and Mariana knows that. She said that forever Scholarships have being essential for her education life, and she will continued applying for them.

I know Mariana will make a great job. Mariana describes her motivation by saying, “My journey to here has not been easy, sometimes I wanted to give up, but my parents and brother are my motivation, and reason for being” Nothing in this life is impossible, and Mariana has prove that that quote is true.

To conclude with my analisis on Marian’s interview, I can say that she knows exactly what she wants. Even Though, she is not sure what level she wants to teach yet, Mariana knows the enough steps to success on her career. Also, Mariana is so positive, and proud of her roots. In my personal opinion, Mariana will succeed in the educational field, and she will be an exemplary teacher, and loved by her students.

(Word Count 1490)

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