

My journey along the path of education has taken me from one place to another. I was born in Mexico meaning that half of my education was in that country. In my second year of Middle School I began to take gravitate towards literature. From all my school subjects my favorite was always Spanish. What I most enjoyed doing in my Spanish was writing poetry and story analysis. When I finished my three years of Middle School, my parents decided to immigrate to the United States. When I met this new country I was just sixteen years old and my whole life changed since then. It was here where my education expanded and continued. I started off my new educational years as a HighSchool student. Like many other immigrant students I had a difficult time learning English as my second language. It was not easy for me to adapt to a new country let alone a new entire educational system. But looking back I am beyond proud that I get to say that I succeed. Through all my hardships and hard work I had a goal. It was during my senior year that I decided I wanted to give my life to the teaching of Spanish. First because I enjoy the educational field. Second, I feel that our Hispanic community in this country is growing and I would like for our next generations to known their language. As well as their roots and implement the importance of having two cultures.

The first time I had a connection with CSUMB, was during a my Junior year of High School. Because, being part of the migrant program at my school it gave me the opportunity to visit this university. From the first moment I stepped into the University, I was delighted with this place because of its proximity to the sea. Fast forward to a couple of years, I became a Hartnell student, where I met people who were already studying Spanish in this college. After speaking to them, all of their comments on the language program were very positive. For these two reasons, I had no doubt in attending CSUMB, and this has been one of the best decisions of my life.

Being part of the CSUMB Spanish department not has it only opened me the door to explore my own culture, but also I have had the opportunity to cooperate with people from other countries. I realised that not just our language make us family, but our history and traditions do too.

My literature, culture, and linguistic classes have made me see that our Latin culture is very rich in knowledge. That every aspect of it is unique and special. Also CSUMB throughout its Service Learning requirement it introduced me to the teaching world. Thanks to this class I had the great experience to work as a tutor with High Students whom were just barley learning English like I was at their age. This opportunity taught me that teaching is my true vocation, and reinforce the decision to want to be a Spanish teacher for high school students.

I know that my path through the educational world is not over yet. I also know that there will be adversities and difficulties in my future. But I have faith that I can achieve my purpose in this world, and my community. This was a promise that I made to myself from that day on which I held my high school diploma in my hands. At that moment I could say that I had a mission in

my life. This is to give my days and years to teaching with the only purpose of our Hispanic community never forgetting their roots, and where they come from.