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WLC 300
Personal Statement
November 9, 2018

Being a first generation student is a complete privilege, and being where I am today is something that my family and I are really proud of. Migrating to the United States was something that I didn't want at first, because I was afraid of the language and adapting to a new culture, but now I am really thankful for this gift that my parents granted me. Studying in the United States really showed me the opportunities that I was going to lack in my hometown, and the poverty that I would be facing right now. During my first years of studying in the United States, I faced a lot of problems due to my lack of effort acculturating and learning the language. Later on when I was attempting to learn and adapt, I faced harsh treatment from several students because I couldn't communicate properly, and this made me hide my Spanish and feel insecure about who I was. I felt like my identity was being oppressed, but once I reached my High School years, I was introduced to the beauty of Spanish: the grammatical rules, the literature, and this made me appreciate that identity I was hiding. By the end of my high school years, I knew that I wanted to keep learning Spanish, but I didn't know if going to college to study this subject was a smart idea, so I started doubting myself again. Once I had the courage to start my college career, I realized that Spanish and teaching were the oppressed goals that I had hidden within me, because the environment surrounding me had made me doubt myself.

My years at Gavilan College opened my eyes and realize who I really wanted to be, so I decided to transfer to California State University Monterey Bay after obtaining my AA-T in Spanish. This is my second semester at CSUMB, and I have learned to appreciate my language, customs, and every aspect that composes the culture that I carry with me. This institute also

made me realize how important it is to help my community, because it is required for all students to provide time to help the community. I am currently doing this requisite, and I have learned that the effort that this institute requires from its students really creates an impact on their lives, and the community as well. In my assistance, I have learn that my knowledge of both English and Spanish is crucial to my community, and myself helping my community reach their citizenship status is going to help them open new doors for themselves and future generations. Attending this academic institute has made a huge impact in my life, because its staff remind the students that they will always be here to help us, and as I am currently enrolled in my second semester, I can definitely say that the support they provide is something that helps us reach higher levels of education by encouraging us to set new goals.

After obtaining my Bachelor's Degree in Spanish Language and Hispanic Cultures at CSUMB, I plan on pursuing a master's degree. I plan to continue my education at San Jose State University, and receive my M.A. in Spanish, and at the same time I would like to serve as a substitute teacher at either that institute or a community college where I can put my skills to use. I would like to do both activities at the same time, because I want to experience a high level of education, and provide the best of my abilities to students who have the same goals as me. I am eager to pursue my education, and provide the best learning experiences to my future students. I want to provide my life experiences to class and show how we should be proud of our cultural heritage, and embrace it. Providing assistance to the community is definitely something that I will try to encourage from my future students, because one thing I've learned from CSUMB is that we can help today's generation in many ways. Most importantly, I have learned that we can help people open new doors for their lives and future generations.