

Growing up, I knew what I wanted to become, a teacher. I started community college with the goal of becoming an elementary school teacher. One of the requirements stated that I had to take a Spanish class, so I did. It was there when I realized that I really wanted to pursue a career in Spanish.

I immigrated to the United States when I turned 15 years old. As such, my education career has been challenging. I knew that my family took the decision to immigrate because they were seeking a job to be able to support us. Since I was of working age, I came with the mentality that I would be working with my mother in the fields. My mother decided that I would be the first of our family of eleven that would, not only attend high school, but graduate from it as well. No questions asked. Needless to say, it was hard to assimilate the culture. Learning English was the most challenging task at hand, but nevertheless, I was able to accomplish it thanks to the resources that were available to me at that moment.

My first connection with CSUMB was on the summer before my sophomore year of high school. I was part of the migrant program which offered me and other students the opportunity to live on campus for the summer. The goal was that all ESL students enhance their English skills during the summer. I enjoyed that summer and learned an immense amount, not only did my English skills improve, but the idea of attending college was rooted in my mind.

Currently, CSUMB has given me the tools to develop into the teacher that I want to become. One of the key concepts that the university stresses is leadership. For example, I took a Service Learning class where I have to go out to the community and work in an agency where I can gain skills and learn from the community as well. This not only prepares me academically, but gives me the opportunity to engage in the community where I wish to work in the future.

I think back to the obstacles that I had to overcome and that really motivates me to become a Spanish teacher at high school level. Ideally, I will love to obtain a position at Alisal High School, where I graduated from.

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