

Jocelyn Duenas

WLC 300

Dr. Donaldo Urioste

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### Personal Statement

Since the moment I knew that I would have the privilege to attend a four-year university I have been sure of the pathway I have wanted to take. In fact, I have been fortunate enough to have a strong sense of direction from a very young age. Although I was born in the United States coming from immigrant Hispanic parents has been challenging for me growing up. I have been brought up in inner city communities which are predominately composed by Latinos. I have experienced firsthand the lack of resources that are available to minorities and this has been an influential factor in pursuing my goal. Despite the major setbacks that come with being categorized as a minority, I have not let them stop me from going out of my way to reach my ultimate desires.

I believe that my aching urge to pursue an education began as a young elementary school girl. I found myself feeling trapped between two different identities; my American identity and my Mexican identity. I attended school and although I was fluent in English I enjoyed speaking Spanish with my friends. I recall one afternoon being scolded by a teacher who told me to stop speaking Spanish because we were in America. This has left a mark in me because I remember being confused when I was younger and I loved the Spanish language and didn't understand why I couldn't use it in America. I spent many years thinking that speaking Spanish in America was wrong and felt ashamed of being the daughter of immigrant parents. However, with this experience always in the back of my mind I began to grow and realize that my passion for the Spanish language and my culture just got stronger and stronger. I felt blessed to have Spanish

courses available for me in high school. I took advantage of all the Spanish courses that were offered and was fortunate enough to start college with plenty of experience with Spanish college level courses.

I decided to attend California State University, Monterey Bay and pursue a B.A. in Spanish with a concentration in literature and culture because I want to prove to other students what was proven to me; Spanish is extremely beneficial in any country, but America needs more bilingual professionals. My goal is to become a high school Spanish teacher because I believe high school years are crucial in finding one's passions and goals and I aspire to influence many students through my passion of the Spanish Language it's literature and culture. I believe that at CSU Monterey Bay I have developed the most intensive appreciation for Spanish Literature and culture now I can see the positive impacts to the society, which come from the ability to speak Spanish.

Each day I feel more immersed into the beauty and benefits of being bilingual in this progressive country and am prouder than ever to be the daughter of immigrant parents. I believe that all the communities that have surrounded me while I was in the process of growing and learning have influenced me greatly. I would love to take my chance to give back to my communities and help others reach their ultimate goals and aspirations. Despite the challenges I have faced and the ones I continue to face I consider myself fortunate enough to wake up each day sure of my passion and pathway I have chosen to reach my goals in the near future.