

Interviewer: Krysta Schmick

Interviewee: Maricruz Serrata

K: Were you and your family born in the US or did you migrate here from another country?

M: Ya, we migrated here from Mexico City in 1989, we've been here since.

K: What was that experience like?

M: I don't really remember because I was two years old, but I don't really remember.

K: What was your family situation before migrating to the United States?

II M: We were pretty much an upper-middle class family; we just thought that it would be better here. More opportunities especially for me in education.

K: What prompted you to come to the US?

M: We thought that we would have more opportunities here in education and also my grandparents were moving here.

K: What was your trip to the US like?

M: I don't remember!

K: Why did you family decide to reside in Hillsboro?

M: We already had some family here, some aunts of mine lived here and it's better than going to another state and not knowing anything and being alone.

K: How does you family emphasize education? Did they support it?

M: Oh ya, definitely. My parents had good schooling in Mexico and good careers. Her when I was four I started to learn how to read, my mom taught me that and they always supported me and helped me with my homework and stuff.

K: What are your feelings towards the education system in the Hillsboro School District?

IV M: I think its good and we have a lot of opportunities to pursue different programs because we definitely have a broad variety of it here, but due to the budget cuts some classes that people really needed or wanted are being cut an that's really unfortunate.

K: Describe your first experiences with school in the US.

IV  
M: It was kinda hard; it was a long time ago. It was pretty hard because I didn't understand the language. And I didn't, I was totally clueless but we had just a few people who knew languages and they helped me a lot. But I had to be immersed into the language just gradually by myself.

K: How comfortable do you feel with school? Is there anything that would make you feel more comfortable?

M: Not really, I love it here, its really comfortable ambiance for me.

K: Do you feel you have the same opportunities as other non-Hispanic students?

III  
M: Ya, I mean there's no discrimination here at school, we're all pretty much treated equally and we all have the same opportunities. As long as you do your work and, you can be very perseverant as far as studies go.

K: Describe the relationship between fluent English-speaking Hispanics and other Hispanics.

II  
M: There's a huge difference, sometimes both groups don't really get along. I don't really mix much with the other non-English-speaking Hispanics. Because we just have different classes, like I'm taking AP classes and they're in the ESL one and we don't have much in common so we don't really mix.

K: Do you feel racism or stereotyping in or out of school? Describe...how do you feel?

IV  
M: Not in school, but outside of school there were some incidents that involved a lot of discrimination. Some ladies here they just saw my mom and I and they were like "ok, those Mexicans..." and they started like calling us "Beaners" and things like that, which was very rude and it really hurts your feelings, like more than you could ever imagine. It it's just very disrespectful but we don't sink to their level by insulting them back, that's just disrespectful.

K: DO you think HSD provides enough support to Hispanic students?

V  
M: Oh ya definitely! We always have the support that we need. Like I know some of my friends don't speak English very well, and they have Maria Fernandez in the Counseling Center and she always helps them with everything.

K: What programs do you think have ha the most beneficial impact on the Hispanic students?

M: Programs...such as...?

K: Like ESL programs or clubs or anything like that.



M: I'm not very involved with the Hispanic clubs. As far as ESL goes, I'm not a strong supporter of it, because I believe that you have to be in regular classes in order to pick up the language, if you're in an ESL classroom there's other people that will speak Spanish and that doesn't help you speak English at all.

K: What do you want to see changed about these programs?

M: I think we should gradually take them away and force students to seek English as a language that should be pre-dominant here in school, so that they can be just like everybody else.

K: IN your experience, have you received adequate support from teachers and staff?

M: yeah, everybody's, really supported me here, as far as teachers and counselors; you can always count on somebody to help you out.

K: DO you feel any drive to succeed in High School?

M: Yea, because I mean you have to be successful in order to go on to college and that's what I want to do. I mean I want to get my doctorate and right now I M successful in High School, because of that.

K: IN what ways do you feel language or cultural barriers have affected your schooling?

M: Since it was a really long time ago, right now I'm pretty much where I want to be. There is no barrier anymore really.

K: Are or were you involved in ESL? If so, in what manner were you involved?

M: I was in ESL when I was in Kindergarten, but then they kind of threw me out. Well they said I already knew enough, but I didn't feel ready, but the fact that they did do that and force me to speak English. That was really good and ended up being beneficial.

K: Do you think that was even better than being in ESL classes?

M: That was way better, yea

K: Well we should do that then

(giggle giggle)

K: Have you participated in any other programs directed to help Hispanics?

M: no, but I've applied to Hispanic scholarships and things like that, I've already received one form the Hispanic Metropolitan Chamber. And I mean you don't need to be involved in programs to still benefit from that.

K: Would you say it's harder for Hispanics to get scholarships and get into college

M: Oh, no, not really. I mean, there's a whole lot of scholarships that are just for Hispanics and that makes it even better.

K: If they apply for them then the chances are...

M: Ya, the chances are better

K: Well thank you very much, and we are done!