Aqueycha Chavira

02/10/19

Section 1

ID: 820157202

Assignment #1: All About Me

I was born in Tijuana, Baja California but was raised in Rosarito, in a little village called *La Morelos*. In the year 2005, my family and I finally got approval from Immigration Services giving us permission to cross over to the United States. My family consists of my two sisters, four half-sisters, my mom and dad—who are divorced now. I started school here in the United States half way through second grade not knowing a lick of English. However, over coming the language barrier by the end of third grade was one of the many accomplishments that I am proud of thus far. As I continued in my academic journey, I was eventually placed in advanced classes where my intellectual capability consistently grew. I graduated with a 4.3 from Serra High School in 2016 and was ecstatic to begin my new journey at San Diego State University.

My dad often mentioned the importance of obtaining a higher education, which is one of the major influences that led me to where I am today. I am studying Mathematics with an emphasis in Computational Science and minoring in Spanish. Two of the biggest questions I usually get are, “Ew, why math?” or “What do you want to do, teach?” Potentially, you as the reader may be thinking the same thing but, not only am I pursuing a STEM major because I am passionate about it, but I also want to break the glass ceiling and represent the minority population in this field. Because I am a female, one of the biggest social norms is to expect that I will go into the educational field. Not only do I want to utilize my passion for mathematics to possibly create change in the world, but I also would like to inspire other woman, particularly Latino woman, to pursue STEM careers due to the sad reality that we are highly underrepresented in those fields.

Growing up in a low-income Hispanic household certainly affected the path I have taken and has molded my character, morals and values. As mentioned earlier, my father was the one who emphasized the importance of education, however, when my parents got divorced my mom—who had only completed a middle school education—waved school off as if it were just a pastime. The determination and persistence that my father instilled in me when I was little was the driving force that allowed me to independently succeed in my academic career. Although my dad has not been a major part in my life after the divorce, I will always be grateful for his teachings. Not to say that my mother is not proud of what I have accomplished, she just simply does not prioritize schooling due to her lack of education. I tend to reminisce on my upbringing and wonder how different my life would have been had I not been self-driven, independent and determined. Those characteristics are what I want to instill in my little sister, who is currently a senior in high school, in order to set her up for success. I know she looks up to me therefore, I want to be that guiding hand that I never had at her age. We were raised by a hard-working mother who cleans other people’s homes to earn a humble living. My sister and I have committed ourselves to better our lives through education, in order to assist our mother in the near future.

To say the least, I do not have much disability-related experiences. I do have three family members that I am aware of that have some sort of disability. One of my cousins from my dad’s side of the family has Down Syndrome, another cousin from my mom’s side of the family is blind and my mom’s brother—my uncle—is intellectually disabled. I am not too close to them nor do I feel educated enough about their conditions to be able to feel entitled to a platform to speak on disabilities. Coming from a fully Catholic family, I believe that disabilities in my culture are looked down upon as a curse from God. However, the majority of my family is highly accepting of those relatives that have a disability but, that does not necessarily mean that the stigma is nonexistent. One of the things I am most excited about for this course is learning how to approach individuals with disabilities and the proper way to lend a helping hand. I believe that being able to learn and understand social queues is a vital personal skill to have. I enjoy being exposed to different cultures and communities which is why I am looking forward to this class.

A person posing for the camera

Description automatically generated