

Ariel Rojas Resendiz

I believe in a better future. More specifically, a future where every American has a chance to succeed in life, no matter what challenges they are currently facing. A belief that I never anticipated would shape my future, but it unexpectedly led me to where I am now.

During my Junior year of high school, I had no idea what to do after graduating. All I knew was that I had to go to college. While I had many hobbies and interests, none of them would spark the passion that would make me want to pursue them. That passion wouldn't be until the second semester of my junior year. After the marching season, I face the challenge of how I will get home after school. It was not a problem before, because practice would end around 8, and my father could pick me up. It was especially more difficult because I went to a farther high school. My only choices were walking for two hours or taking public transit for an hour and a half. Either choice would still get me home around 6 pm. Creating a frustration for the next 90 days of school.

Every day after the final bell rang, I would have to take a short walk to the bus stop. Frustration was building up as cars passed by with students heading home. They were moving smoothly and effortlessly to their destination, but I was just standing there waiting for my chance to move. As the day went by, winter turned into spring. After school, temperatures were reaching the low 80s to mid-90s. The heat became unbearable, turning a long wait into a challenge. Having to wait for 30 minutes tested my endurance and patience. I sat on a bench with no shade or water to protect me from the scorching sun. Arriving home with exhaustion and fatigue turned simple pleasures into luxuries, like video games or even lying down to relax.

It was during these long, hot waits that I began to wonder why the system was broken. Riding the bus could sometimes take as long as walking, and a system made to help people doesn't help them. It lacked modern features and was sometimes inconsistent, treating those who relied on it as second-class citizens. I could not understand why a country like the United States has a system that leaves so many at a disadvantage when compared to other countries around the world. These frustrations and questions left me thinking about how I could solve the problem, or at least make a change. This led me to discover my passion for civil engineering, a way to design better systems for how we design cities. Even if I make a difference only in my community, it is not about having credit, but to set the foundation for a better future I may never see.

Word Count: 478