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April 29, 2020

### Stakeholder Interview

As I interviewed Jose Cisneros he had such an enthusiastic personality when he talked about what he did prior to becoming the Board President of the non-profit organization being The Food and Clothing Co-op I was interning at. What he is in charge of is making decisions on how to help the clients that would come in for help and what can benefit them all at the same time. His idea of what leadership was or what it should look like made a big impression on me. He was able to explain to me how leadership can be easily done by anybody. It doesn't matter who they are, what matters is the heart of the individual.

However, even though he is retired now he has had many different experiences that have allowed him to be able to have this role in the organization. Jose used to be in the Army as a medical assistant. He loved being able to help his team members with any medical assistance and made sure to have a passion for it. Although he was in the army and it was not the best time of his life, he was able to explain to me about what helped him keep going was to keep a focused mind on his purpose of helping others and have a willing heart as well.

After being in the Army for several years he went to school and majored in biology and landed a job as a lab technician. He loved being able to wear a white coat and help in the lab with everything dealing with chemistry and biology. Jose told me how during that time he met his now wife and loved her unconditionally and wanted to provide for her in any way he could. Although they both had their own difference about what kind of life they wanted to live, he knew that he wanted to get his Master's degree. He applied to the University of Arizona and got accepted, it was a chance for him to do something he had

always wanted to do which was get more educated and graduate with a Masters degree. His wife at the time was his girlfriend and did not want to leave her hometown without getting married to him, that would allow for her to freely go anywhere he went and that made him think how she was very old school.

Moreover, being able to get married and leaving to Arizona unbelievably opened so many opportunities for him. After receiving his Masters in Human Resources he immediately landed a job a week after he had graduated, which surprised me so much. There was a huge difference back then on how one got hired. He explained how it used to be so easy to land almost any job and that many employers did not really put attention to the degree you had but mainly put their attention towards the experience one had. Being able to work there for about 20 years or so he told me that taught him how to be patient because every day he was dealing with trying to fix individuals' problems in any given issue in the department he was working for, which I was unable to write down in the department in which he worked for.

All the topics that we're able to be discussed during the time of the interview intertwine with different topics that have been discussed in class. For example, Jose was able to have all these different roles in life which created a mentality of having different leadership practices throughout his career and also as an individual. His current position as a leader has allowed him to have set goals and be able to take responsibility if something in the organization is going wrong and also improving for the better. Jose mentioned how the most rewarding part of his position in the organization is being able to help people with a basic need such as food, and clothing. He realizes how there are many different individuals who are in need and they always come back to receive the help the organization is able to give to them. He is very proud of what his organization is about and what kind of mentality the other workers have.

Overall, my interview with Mr. Jose was a very interesting one and an interview I will hold very close to my heart. He has had so many life experiences and was able to give advice on how just about anybody can be a leader at any given time. Prior to this interview I remembered about the videos we had

to watch for an assignment in this class and the video that really spoke to me was with Drew Dudley. He explained how anybody can and is capable of making a difference in the lives of those who they surround themselves with and also strangers that come their way. Being able to have leadership skills is very important especially in the journey of my public health career. Something that I will hold dearly is what Mr. Jose mentioned which was “if you are going to do something like be in school, strive for the best opportunities that are out there for you and your career path”. I enjoyed the time that I spent interviewing Mr. Jose and I will consider everything he told me about the Art of Leadership.