

As I was growing up my dream was to become a police officer or a firefighter. With the passing of time, I started to lose interest in pursuing these careers. I knew I had to figure out something else that interested me because it would be what I would be doing for the rest of my life. I had the privilege that many people do not have and will never have and that is going to college to pursue higher education. My parents did not have that privilege and I wanted to take advantage of the privilege they gave me. Due to this, I decided to choose Spanish Language and Hispanic Cultures as my major.

One of the main reasons behind this decision was that my parents are from Mexico. Growing up I was taught the language and culture they knew without having an education. Having parents that did not have the fortune to get an education made me be more interested in their language and culture because I felt that I was just taught the tip of the iceberg. The California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB) has a program that would be able to increase my knowledge of Spanish Language and Hispanic Cultures.

Before coming to Monterey I had to consider whether I would be attending CSUMB because I knew that the university did not have a large number of students in the Spanish program and this was causing the university not to offer as many classes for the Spanish program. I knew that if students stop applying for the Spanish program the university might be forced to cancel the program. I was willing to take the risk of attending and not finishing the Spanish program here at CSUMB. In my short time, as a student at CSUMB, I have learned that I made the right choice. The University without a doubt has not let me down or made me regret the decision. The university has been able to expand my knowledge on both language and Hispanic Cultures in the short time I have been here.

Also, CSUMB has provided the resources I need to help me achieve my goal. It has a wonderful staff that is always willing to help without any hesitation. The students that are majoring in Spanish have been fighting for more classes to be offered in the major. This is the type of people I want to be around because they are willing to fight for change. Many of the students are looking into the future and

trying to improve the university for future students that will be coming to CSUMB to major in Spanish.

My plans for my future is to become a professor. I want to become a professor so I can go back to my local community college and teach. I want to teach there because it was where everything started and because I want to give back to my community. I want to give back to my community because I was not always the best student. I would like to share my experience with young students so that way they can see that it is possible to achieve their dreams. To achieve my personal goal, I would have to pursue a Ph.D. degree. I will overcome any challenges I may face in my way to achieving this goal. I will not give up because I believe I can change the life of a student and inspire them to continue with their education and achieve their personal goals.

GRADE 9.9