

HOLDING A PIECE OF THE PUZZLE

Education has been and will always be a major factor in my life enhancing my ability to understand the world. My academic life has been filled with many obstacles as well as unforgettable events. These experiences have left me with a better understanding of life, and have taught me essential life skills. It's like building a puzzle.

Of the many obstacles I've faced during my academic career, adapting to a new learning environment with a whole new language stands out above all. At the age of nine years, I moved to the United States. As a child I didn't have any choice on the matter as my parents, hoping for better way of life and better educational opportunities for their four children made this life altering decision for our family. Their sacrifice, walking away from family and from the familiar would hopefully lead their children to successful careers and a better way of life. As a young child I knew that I was a piece of this puzzle called success.

It took many hours of studying and figuring out the language. For example, I had to learn the difference between words that sounded the same but were not the same. Words like sheep, ship, cheap, sale, sail, sinking and thinking just to name a few. But I was diligent and determined and I practiced and studied every day making sure the puzzle would be finished by the time I graduated from high school. I soon adapted to my new style of life and used my bilingual skills and experiences to help other immigrant students going through the same frustrating experiences and tough times I had been through.

Among all educational experiences I had throughout my academic life, being selected as a member of Poudre High School's Student Council has left a mark in my life. Beyond my involvement with Poudre's Hispanic Youth Promoting Excellence (HYPE), my senior year was the first year I was involved as a member of Student Council. This experience has been awesome and I regret not becoming involved sooner. Student Council developed my leadership, communication, and aiding skills, which I will carry with me my entire life. There, I had the opportunity of helping the school in many aspects and had the chance to contribute to many fundraisers and organizations such as the El Pomar Foundation. The opportunity to lead and to belong is one more piece of the puzzle.

My academic goal is to become a secondary school Social Studies teacher. I want to help future students achieve their objectives and to give back to the school community for helping me achieve my own objectives. Being the first generation in my family to attend college gives me great motivation to pursue and achieve my goal.

I chose to attend the University of New Mexico because I deserve a good educational experience. It would be an honor to be accepted to the University and I assure you that I will not be a disappointment. The opportunity will allow me to start putting together a new puzzle of my life and to let my parents know that their sacrifices are appreciated and recognized.