Claudia López WLC 300 10/30/19

One of the most important and difficult decisions we have to face is deciding who we want to become and what pathway to take in order to pursue our goals. I was not always certain of who I wanted to be and what career I wanted to choose. I simply knew I wanted to find something that I was passionate about. Today, I am glad to find myself in the perfect place; working hard to achieve my bachelor's degree in Spanish and moving forward to become a brilliant teacher.

Things weren't always easy for me. I was born and raised in Guanajuato, México. My life in México was beautiful, as a child, I did not realize the lack of money and the difficulties my parents had to face every day to put food on the table for us. My dad migrated to the United States hoping to find the American Dream, that would help him find a job and provide a better life for his family. I came to the United States when I was 13 years old. It was like coming to a whole new world. The most difficult part was not knowing the language. In middle school, I had a difficult time making friends, even do the majority of residents in Salinas are Hispanics none of my classmates wanted to help me during class. This were difficult times for me. But somehow I manage to stay focused in school and little by little I started learning the language and making friends.

During high school I took a spanish class that really change my perspective about college and about my future. Mr. López was an amazing teacher he really helped me to become more confident about myself. Coming from a mexican background, Mr. Lopez became like a role model for many of us. He represented the dreams we all had to be someone in life and achieve a career. It was during his class that I discovered my passion for the Spanish language and cultures, I knew then that I wanted to become a teacher and inspire students to believe they can be anything they want to be just like Mr. Lopez did with me . After high school I faced a new obstacle, I was pregnant, my life changed forever. Having a baby at such a young age change everything now I had to work and support my son. My dreams of going to college had to wait for a while.

Two years later I decided to enroll in Hartnell Community College, and after overcoming different obstacles I finally reached CSUMB in 2018, and today I am very close to finally reach my goal, and get a college degree. My main objective is to become a teacher of Spanish language and culture at the high school level. I want to do this because I would love to teach new generations about their native culture and language and make them feel proud of what they represent in society. Keeping our heritage alive is one of the most important things for me, and I hope that sharing my knowledge would help others to gain great things from it. I always had the interest of being an educator, because I believe is a rewarding job and it would be amazing to teach the subject I am most passionate about.