



I started 10th grade at Verdugo Hills High School three and a half years ago after my family had moved to the United States from Mexico. I had to face the problems of not knowing the language or how the education system worked. I felt alone. Everything was different from my country. I could not express myself with the people around me. Often I felt frustrated. Many people told me that graduating would be hard for me because I did not know the language and was just starting to learn English. Instead of being upset about this comment, it motivated me to better, to study hard, and to get good grades. In this way I would show the people that I could do it. My goal then was to graduate from high school with good grades and on time with the rest of the students my own age. My counselor gave me credit for my transcript I brought from Mexico. She moved me from the 10th grade to 12th grade the following year. She told me if I finished the requirements for graduation, I could graduate in ninety-four. Then I began to apply for college. I looked at the requirements for admission. I realized I was not prepared to go to college, after all, I had not taken any college preparatory courses like Chemistry, Physics, and Mathematics. Finally I did it. I graduated from high school in ninety-five. I was fifth place in my class and so happy to receive my diploma with high honors and the CSF (California Scholarship Federation) seal.

My family had a large part in my achievements in high school and continues to be a source of motivation in my achievements in college. My family is not large. There are

four of us: my father, my mother, my sister, and myself. I am the youngest in the family and the first one to graduate from high school and to attend college. Although my sister is two years older than I, she could not finish high school. My sister quit school and got married at an early age. This was another thing that motivated me to continue my education through college. I wanted very much to make my parents proud of me.

My family encourages me to be part of activities at school and in the community. Although I was involved in many activities in high school, here at CSUN (California State University, Northridge), I found that is harder for me to be involved in extracurricular activities because my class schedule does not allow it. The fact that I have to take the bus 21 miles home causes me to have to leave school before it gets too late. This also makes my involvement in school activities difficult. I would like to join some organizations like SCEC (The Student Council for Exceptional Children). I like to work with people who are interested in developing the potential of students with exceptionalities. I am also interested in FASA (Filipino American Student Association) and in Armenian Student Association of CSUN because I would like to know about their culture before I graduate.

In my community, I am involved in the youth group and in the choir of my church. I sing at mass every Sunday morning. I practice with the choir Thursday and Saturday nights and Sunday before mass. In the youth group I am the treasurer and I am in charge of the group's activities once a month. These activities demand commitment, responsibility and time. In my spare time I like to read novels, exercise, and go out with my friends to see a movie or eat in a restaurant..

One reason for attending college is that I want to prepare myself for the future by

getting a better education. Another reason is that I would like to give my parents the satisfaction of having a daughter who graduated from college. I applied for admission at CSUN, leaving my major undeclared because I could not decide between Business and Journalism. I expected to get a B.S. degree, because there was a chance to go into business, but in my second semester at C.S.U.N., I have to change my B.S.degree into a B.A. degree because I prefer to be a journalist instead of a business woman.

College Education is very important for the future of a young adult like me. College is my opportunity to improve my life by having more opportunities to get better jobs, my family by encourages them to go back to school, and you a look into different ethnic groups, their backgrounds, style of thinking and ways to solve problems in the world. I think because I want to be a journalist, I need to have an open mind to understand the people in the community and to know more about the world in which we live. My goal is to become a journalist who would be in touch with the people, helping them to make this world a more pleasant place in which to live.