Silvia Arevalo

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Introduction Essay

My name is Silvia Arevalo I come from a Hispanic family coming from two parents that were born and raised in Mexico, that later decided to give my brothers and I a better future by coming to the United States. I have three brothers two older and one younger I am the only one in my whole entire family that decided to go to college and further my education. My parents are very brave and hardworking, both have worked many jobs to be able to own a house, cars and the necessary needs for us. I came to CSUMB to earn myself a degree so that I can do better and make my parents proud. We’ve seen on movies where the American families tell their kids to go to college for themselves but for me it’s for my family. My family is very important to me and they have helped me pay for my schooling as well as their support which is the most important. Choosing Csumb was definitely one of the best decisions I have made on my own, no influences just my own decision. I knew I wanted to go somewhere where there would be different opportunities for me than if I stayed in the Central Valley of Fresno. For me to be in this is very important especially because it is required for my general education as well as I like to volunteer and help those in need. I started volunteering my junior year in high school and ever since then I have always liked to make those people that need my help and make them smile and things easier for them. From this course I want to learn how to be a helpful person and help those in the East Salinas community. I want to be able to communicate and give my attention to those that need the help. I feel this class will give me more experience in volunteering in college.

Civic engagement is very important for the whole community to take a part in. If communities were not civically engaged nobody would want to help others the community would not be a community but just individuals living next to each other. Having the same cultural community is always a positive feeling because you are not living in a community where you are different or on your own. As a college student I think my social responsibility is to help a lot right now because I do not work during my school year so I have time where I can help but during the summer I work so that I can pay for my schooling so I do not have time. That is why I joined the Rotaract club here at CSUMB because they volunteer and help the communities around here. I was always brought up by my family that there are families less fortunate than me so I do not take things for granted. I am very grateful to have everything that I do have because it takes hard work to achieve. My parents never spoiled us because they never had the riches to do it but it takes the richest to spoil their kids with love. Our upbringing was different from other kids and that’s what makes us all different in our own ways.

Personal role in the community is to help and be someone that a young child can look up to. My personal responsibilities to my community are to help others communicate let each other be heard, listen to what some of us have to say. Listening is a great personal responsibility especially when you are part of community that calls for your help. Another part of responsibility is to help your community knowing when to help and also not just when someone is struggling most people do not like to ask for help so they struggle until it is too late to get help. Service is helping, giving, and sharing anything that shows you care is service without anything in return. How you measure the impact on service is how others respond. If someone is pleased with your service you can receive many appreciations and be so happy that you are helping. Your service will show when the ones you help take your help or advice and show it.

Being fair is always important and when you do not have it there will be injustice which is a bad problem in this world. Inequity to me means that we are not hearing both stories of a problem, being biased or having liked one side over the other. As I grew up I feel I did have quite of injustice especially because I was the only girl in my family I couldn’t do things my brothers did. Also in school when certain groups of girls would not let my best friend and I play tetherball with them just because we were younger. It was unfair that just because of our age or grade we weren’t good enough to play with them. In many instances in my life I felt I was being treated unfair and but yet I never gave up. I definitely feel I am part of the college community here at CSUMB. Being in the Rotaract club we get to help others that could use a helping hand and it always makes me feel good after. Going to college to get a higher education and doing service hours will also make me more involved with the surrounding community of East Salinas.

A community should be supporting and fair to each diverse group around them. Working together to get things accomplished is a good example of a community. For a community to be sustainable each individual should need to take a part of what they can contribute. Having organized community meetings to know what they are lacking of and getting stronger at. To build a community you should have a purpose or goal that you might want to accomplish as well as having a leader that listens and is fair to each individual in the community. A strong sense of responsibility is a great trait for those leaders of the community. The individuals that are part of the community should be thoughtful and think of what others are lacking and help them. Communicating within the community might be as difficult and sometimes very easy but intimidating and we should have the encouragement to be able to not speak up for our community. A community should be strong and having each other’s support as well as confidence.