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Grade: 12

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What Drives You?

When it came to deciding my major, I desired nothing more than to become an elementary teacher. Ever since I was in elementary school, I knew for a fact that I was going to be a teacher. I was born and raised in Ogden, Utah, where there are mostly hispanics like me. But as I started to grow up, I noticed that something was missing in my education. There really wasn't much diversity in the educational staff, and I know what you may think... How does this affect a child in school or in their daily life? Students need someone to culturally connect with because they might feel more safe or comfortable with someone who can relate to them. Teachers need to be updated and knowledgeable about multicultural classes because they deal with students who come from many diverse backgrounds. This is one of the main reasons why I want to be a teacher; I want to change the face of teaching. I want to help my community by educating them about their culture, which will create a feeling of belonging and acceptance among peers.

Being a teacher is more than just being in a classroom, we impact the lives of our community and make the world a better place. I will first start to make a difference by talking to the future generations of minorities to challenge and stimulate their perspective on education. As

students enter my classroom, they will feel accepted and safe, which will help them be successful in their future. As a Mexican-American first generation student and proud immigrant daughter, I saw first hand the struggles of not having enough wisdom about education in the United States. As a minority in the educational system, I had high expectations from my parents involving my education, which leads to me wanting to implement high expectations from my students as well. Not to necessarily push them to the limit, but to encourage them to see their potential. This is also why I want to expose culture to my students and teach them what our ancestors went through to provide us our future. This will show importance to their culture and it will teach them to embrace it throughout their lives. Not only will I teach them but I will impact my students lives by reinforcing mental health and their well being in the classroom. I know that this will increase the motivation and learning in my students, which will encourage them to take on the power of education. I've always had the special privilege of connecting with younger generations easily, that's why I have taken rigorous courses so I can go out into the teaching profession quicker so my impact in the classroom starts right away. Teaching doesn't only involve homework and tests, it goes beyond that because we have to also teach them important life lessons that will forever impact their lives.