

## **What Drives me**

“Mija, you will do great things in your life that I was never able to do ” my mother told me in a conversation we had about choosing the right university and career path for me. This conversation started when I mentioned I was considering moving out of state for college. I was not shocked when she was fully supportive of my dreams, as she always is.

Many students reminisce about their own parent’s college experience. As a first-generation Mexican American college means a whole new world of opportunities and advancements for my future career and goals. The primary and most important factor that drives me is receiving the education my parents never got to get. The highest level my mom received was her second to last year in prepatoria or in English high school because her father pulled her from school to work. Holding myself accountable for the sacrifices my parents made is pivotal to my success in any part of my life especially studying at a university and getting into a stable and well-paying career. My goal is to break the cycle of having a lower education by receiving my bachelors in general health then pursuing a career in nursing specializing in pediatrics.

I’ve known that I want to work with kids since I can remember. I recall a fond memory of playing “teacher” with my parents. My very first job as a young thirteen-year-old who, let's be honest, probably needed a babysitter herself was watching over the neighbor's children. One volunteer experience I will always cherish is helping throw a Christmas party for children whose parents did not have the money for new toys. I also express my love of helping through peer mentoring. I have had the wonderful opportunity for the past two years to be part of a class that goes to elementary schools to peer mentor children who are struggling. It was not until my junior year of highschool where I started becoming interested in what the medical field offers through taking an anatomy class as it offered a look into nursing through clinicals and interesting labs. It has been a daunting task deciding the career path I want to take because it feels as if I have two passions: education and medicine. Ultimately college is important to me because it will aid in expressing my love of working with kids and medicine by getting my bachelors degree before specializing in pediatrics.

In the end, college drives me because it is important as it is built around finding yourself and finding the community that you belong in as there is a place for everyone. College makes students think how they have never thought before. There are very few other places where you are surrounded by peers with the same motivation and drive as you to pursue the same aspirations. College allows young adults to create connections that will aid them in their future careers along with creating bonds that will last far beyond a lifetime.