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12th grade

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New Mexico

I Know What Drives Me.

I vividly remember my grandma holding me and telling me, “Siempre debes ayudar a las personas necesitadas, incluso cuando también te cuesta mucho.” She was telling to always help someone in need even when it is hard for me too. That is when I knew my goal of becoming fluent in Spanish was not one that I would not reach. I have been learning Spanish through school for three years now. My father is the first son of an immigrant who came here seeking a better place, and my mother has struggled with finances her whole life. Growing up I was never taught Spanish by my dad and it made it hard to talk to my family. I want to become fluent in Spanish so I can talk to my family. But that is not the only reason, I have many.

Finances and taxes are difficult when people do not understand them fully especially when they are not in their language. My grandparents are part of the group who struggles to understand those kinds of things. My grandpa started and owned VMJ company, with a company there has to be an accountant. He tried very hard to find someone who could understand him, an accountant that spoke Spanish. He did not find one but still had to hire someone. There were struggles, it led to disagreements and money missing. Even though I was still young and did not understand much. I saw what had happened there, and it was hard to watch them struggle.

I have been working at Baja Grill in Lovington, NM for three years, and in those years, I have learned so much Spanish from my coworkers and common customers. I soon went from giving the phone to my bilingual coworkers to answering the phone by myself without any help. I have also learned Spanish through music, just like Selena Quintanilla. I hear customers talking about their everyday struggles and most of the time it is about money. I want to become an accountant, a licensed CPA, a bilingual financial advisor.

My goal is to own my own tax/ financial firm, employ bilingual people just like me and help people who struggle to understand taxes. I know my plan. I have already been accepted to the University of Wyoming in Laramie, Wyoming and I will be attending their college of business in August of 2026. Taking their classes in accounting as well as their Spanish classes. I plan to graduate from the University of Wyoming in 2028 or 2029. After graduating I will take the Texas and New Mexico CPA exam, and pass. Then work in a tax firm to understand how to run and work in the firms until I save enough to get my own. Seeing Spanish-speaking people struggle

with taxes and financial decisions is what drives me, it is what has been driving me. Helping my community.