

Who or what in your educational experience has influenced your direction in life?

I have lived in Sitka, Alaska for almost three years now, I moved when I was 15 years old. It was a challenge for me since I had to leave my parents and younger sister in Mexico. I was born in Indio, California, where I was raised for around eight years, then in 2013 we moved to Mexico due to my parents not having legal documents.

At a young age, I wanted to grow up to be a person who helps people to get better either emotionally or physically. As a kid you didn't think much into it, but I wanted to be a doctor, or a therapist, I just wanted to help people feel better. One thing I was told is to be successful in life; go to college/university, get a degree, become a physician or a dentist. During this time, I was living in Mexico, but when I was in my freshmen year, I had the opportunity to move to the United States. I was happy because at some point in my life I wanted to move and continue my education in the States. An amazing opportunity comes with some downsides, and that was moving away from my parents. At first, I was excited to be able to move, which made me not think much about what a big change that is.

I moved in with my older brother, got a part-time job and eventually started school in Sitka, Alaska, but it wasn't easy, the first year of living in Sitka was a rollercoaster, I realized how hard it is to live without my parents, and even though I lived with my brothers, the support wasn't the same. The language, culture, and way of living was very different from the way I was used to. Whenever I was asked what I wanted to do or become, I never gave a clear answer; it was because I didn't have any interest in a certain subject or career path during that time.

During junior year of high school, I remember we had to answer some questions about our academic or future goals, at that time I wasn't so sure what I wanted yet, but I decided to choose nursing. It was one of the career paths that seemed the most interesting to me. I got the opportunity to be part of a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) course, I took it primarily because I wanted to see if nursing is the right fit for

me, an introduction to healthcare. I've been taking the class since January 2024 and so far, I love it. This course enforced my interest in healthcare and gives me the confidence to pursue nursing.

Thank you for this opportunity!

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