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FYE House B

Not Alone

When my parents brought me to the United States from Mexico I was nine months old, they hoped for a better future for my siblings and me. As I grew, I believed my life was going to be better. After high school I was unable to go to a four year University because of financial needs. This was an obstacle I had to face. I became discouraged and I did not want to continue school after high school. Fortunately in a summer connections program, I was encouraged by Mrs. Toumajian to participate in the First-Year Experience program because it would really change my perspective and I would adapt lifelong learning. The FYE program gave me the motivation I needed to set goals and further my studies. It gave me the extra push to not give up and keep moving forward.

Once I enrolled in my first semester at Cerritos, I did not know what would be expected of me as a student. I was really frightened because I thought I would be alone through my journey at Cerritos. Being a part of the FYE program was the best decision I made because I overcame my fear that college would be a challenge I would take on my own.

My FYE classes consisted of Library, Counseling and Guidance, and English. These classes made me realize I am no longer in high school and my learning will reflect on the choices I make. In these courses I especially learned to employ interdependence. For me to employ interdependence was a bit challenging because I am shy, but I did not use shyness as a way of excusing myself. Instead, I took a stand and made new friends and asked for help from others when I needed it. In an assignment for Counseling and Guidance I had to meet with a counselor to discuss my future plans. I became informed of the classes I needed to take to transfer to a four year University. In two or three years I plan to transfer to a four year University and obtain a B.S. in computer engineering. Meeting with a counselor minimized the classes I needed to take to transfer to, the counselor suggested that I consider private colleges as well.

Another assignment that impacted me and made me start thinking about my future goals was a mind map assignment. In this assignment I started setting goals for myself. Although some of the goals I set were as small as helping my sister pass math with a least a C or as big as contributing to a food organization, they are very significant. These goals include helping others and that makes me grow as a person. I will commit and integrate these goals to my college life because they will help me build my character.

Through the FYE program I was able to meet new students and make new friends. I greatly appreciated this program because the instructors were exceptional and great support to students. Since all the courses are tied together and have similar themes, I learned a lot better. The instructors did their best to answer questions or led the students to the correct resources. The inspiration I was given through the FYE program will forever change my view on college. From the FYE program I will take all the materials I learned and apply them to everything. Whether it is asking for help in any future class or joining a club, I will be able to accomplish these tasks because I was not alone in my first semester at Cerritos.