My world began in a small rural town in Zacatecas, Mexico. Both of my parents come from poor, underprivileged families, where having food on the table was an every day struggle. With high hopes of success and a great motivation to better the quality of their lives, my parents took nothing but the clothes on their back and migrated to the US. At the age of 16 my dad was a full time working adult. His values, motivation, and willingness to succeed gave him the strength to carry on in the attempt to create a better future for his family. I admire and respect all he has accomplished. My parents’ dreams of success have become my own. I am determined to go beyond what my father has done not only for myself but for my family as well. I have not only witnessed his struggle, I have been a part of that struggle and that has empowered me to move forward and I know the only way to do so is through education.

Being the oldest of my siblings I carry the greatest responsibility after my parents. I know that it is my responsibility to be their role model. Both my parents lack institutionalized education. This does not mean they do not recognize the importance of going on to higher education but it does limit their ability to help my siblings and I. Even though I have the support of my parents and their good will it has been a challenge for me all throughout high school obtaining information about how to pursue my education. If it were not for my determination to seek answers I would not be where I find myself today. My family is the driving force behind all my aspirations. Everyday I strive to be a good example for my siblings so they too can continue their education. As for myself I am convinced about the future I want. My educational career has not been a walk in the park. My dad has always told me that nothing is ever just handed to you, and I agree. Spanish being my first language and living in an all Spanish-speaking household was extremely challenging as a child, however I overcame it. There have been unfortunate events in my life all which I have had to learn to overcome.

It was fall semester of 11th grade when my mother fell ill. The doctor’s diagnose informed us she had a tumor in her stomach. It was the most devastating and frightening moment of my life. She was hospitalized for several days and went under surgery to remove the tumor. Not only was this an emotionally draining situation, but a financial burden on my family in which I could see my father struggling to pay for my mother’s health bills. My father was at her side and I became fully responsible for my siblings. From that devastating experience I understood that in life nothing is certain. It is important that we value each and every day in our lives a long with the people around us. The tumor was benevolent and from those days of fear nothing remains but determination and strength to work hard everyday to accomplish all my dreams because each day is a new opportunity that will not come back. There are times in life when you fall, but I’ve learned that life is a journey and not a destination, and in my journey, I will always get back up and never give up.