

**Keyword:** Family & Community

**Interviewee information:**

- Name/nickname: Tania
- School year: 2023
- Major: Psychology
- Hometown: Bryan, Tx
- Family's country of origin: Mexico

**Transcript (copy segment transcript here):**

[00:01:22-00:02:57]

[00:01:20] So we'll go ahead and start with the first question. The first question is what made you decide to go to college?

[00:01:26] So I didn't really have college in mind up until I went into high school. All throughout middle school, I didn't even see college as a viable, viable option for me. I went to an early college, high school. So that definitely was like this whole encouragement that I had of going into high school. The demographics of the high school were very much, I'd say, like 70 to 80 percent Latinx students. So coming to college was definitely like as a way for me to advance my own career slash help my parents out in a way, cause my parents, they my dad probably just went to third grade and then dropped out. My mom, she went to secundaria [high school] and over there, where she went to Mexico. And then when she was 16, she came to the United States and she tried to go to high school here. She went to the local Bryan High School, but she didn't like it.

[00:02:32] She doesn't really talk to me about that. But I know that she was very discriminated against at school and she lasted maybe there a semester before she dropped out. So, I mean, she just got through middle school and middle school and she didn't go. And I mean, going to college for me is very much like a way for me to help my parents out once I'm financially stable. So that's why I chose to go to college.

[00:05:16-00:08:08]

[00:05:17] As for where she wanted me to go, she wanted me to go to A&M because it was a 10 to 15 minute drive. But I didn't want to. I wanted to go to one in Austin. But the thing is with us, like specifically our family, our family is very much like we're five minutes away. And I had a huge argument with her. And I told her mom, you're so used to having your family five minutes- literally down the street. You can have me a couple hours away and we got into a huge argument about it. That was like that was one of the big issues like her letting go of me. And like, I'm like, I know that it wasn't just my parents, like most of the friends I had in high school. Were also like all of them were, I want to say first gen students, too. And their parents had the same thing like.

[00:06:04] They weren't used to having family far away. So that was a big deal in the college process. The college application process. Of course. So from what you're telling me your parents are very supportive. So tell me about the day that you got your acceptance letter. So the first acceptance that I got was actually from A&M.

[00:06:26] I told my mom about it. And of course, she was very excited. She was like, oh, like I told you, you're going to go to A&M. Like, there's there's no way around this anymore. And I was like, mom, like I applied to a couple other schools. I wanna hear back from them, because I didn't know how much money was getting from A&M.

[00:06:41] And as for my dad, he was like, set on, nada que ver [it's totally different]. He did not know a single thing about me, not about me, but like what I wanted to study or like where I was going, cause whenever I would talk to him about it, he'd be like, estudia una carrera corta [study a short career]. Algo chiquito. Algo, este, como un trabajo en una oficina [Something small. Something, umm, like a job in an office]. And I'd be like, I don't do that. Like why- That doesn't sound fulfilling to me. And he'd be like. But that doesn't matter. What matters is that you do like get like your associates at Blinn. That was always his thing like, go to Blinn like, you know, do something short term and get it quick like right after. You know, like get a job right after. And I'd be like no, that's not what I want to do. What I want to do is going to take time. So when I got got my first letter, my dad didn't even know about it. I told him he was like, that's cool. Like, you're going to Blinn though, right? And that's I mean, I know what I'm- I'm not the only one, because my friend's parents would also told him the same thing.

[00:07:41] Study something short, something quick so you can start working immediately. But that's my first acceptance went. I was very excited. I told my friends about it. All very excited. But as for the home situation, it was very much like, oh, finally, like, you're going to be close to us. You're gonna be an Aggie and all these things, because, you know, I mean, everybody the Bryan/College Station area is very much like, like go Aggies, like Gig'em and things like that.