

## **Keyword: Coming to TAMU**

### **Interviewee information:**

- Name/nickname: Silvana
- School year: First year Graduate
- Major: Astronomy
- Hometown: Massachusetts
- Family's country of origin: Ecuador

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

[00:17:01] Yeah, i guess your work requires more attention. But so what actually made you decide to go come to A&M. Do you like the school or do you like the Program?

[00:17:16] The school is really great when people ask me where I'm at and I say Texas A&M they're like, oh, you're at Texas A&M. I'm like, I'm humble about it, but like, I get these responses. Well, but the astronomy program is incredible here. Like, we're a very small program. It's like sixteen-ish grad students, about like 10 faculty members. They have another 10 postdocs or something, but they're so attentive and they care about you as a person and your well-being and your growing, not just as a researcher, but as an individual. So when I knew I knew that from when I did my internship here, I got to meet all the grad students and the fact that they value us persons so much because other good schools will just treat us like a grad student. That does work. But they don't look beyond that. You know, they don't care about how you're doing. So they focus that. They focus a lot on that. So that made me be like, okay, research is my number one goal, but how am I going to achieve that if I'm not doing well overall? And the fact that they care about that is what kind of sold me. Yeah, they carry it there very woke. So like they care about LGBTQ issues, they care about environmental issues like what's going on. In the world. And they're also very politically involved. Which is important, so all these things, it's just like it's not just about the research and astronomy, which is obviously the focus.

[00:18:57] Y'all are more like a family. Yeah. Yeah. Close. So I know you don't come here as an undergrad.