

Michelle Ortiz

Personal Statement

My struggles in life since the beginning always made it a little more difficult for me to study, yet the reality was that the power was always inside of me. My fathers passing away at such a young age, made me have to grow up with a single mother. I take this as a blessing. This has made me become such a strong and independent person. Yet I do realize that things have not been easy for both me and her, through the ups and downs she has always put the fact that education is important first.

The fact that I will end up getting a college career was inevitable and for me it was never an option it was a “definite” yes! Through the years my mom has helped me support me in any route of education that I have wanted to go into, which I have appreciated, I chose becoming a spanish major because I feel like in the current political climate we are in it is important to get a better idea of the culture and the knowledge that others don't even have on your own hispanic roots. After going to spain and living in Madrid for 1 year I came back with the sufficient credits needed to get a double major. While there and after being here I went to Miami at Florida International University and discovered the importance of Spanish there in that city, where I would catch myself speaking more spanish than english. Miami is a special cultural hub and the language opened the doors to that adventure. While there I learned to appreciate my Mexican-

American roots more than ever, because of the lack of Mexicans there and the way that other latinos talk about us, made me feel in some ways distant to the “latino” experience. I have learned so much in general, and I know and hope that in the future everything that I have learned in college can help me develop the skills that I need for a job in a market that is inclined and set for latinos. I hope that with my work I could help some people in some way or another. Through my work, through my studies and my experience as well as my childhood background i've learned that, it is possible.