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Personal Statement
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My academic life has been difficult since day one. Changing schools since kindergarten and migrating from place to place affected the way I viewed my future. I remember in high school seeking personal goals and not paying much attention to school. Lack of motivation from the school system and emotional problems contributed to failing several classes. Nevertheless, when I entered college, my life changed drastically. I was given support from instructors and faculty members along with the program “Mi Casa”, which helps AB540 students meet their academic goals. The program reminded me of the Migrant Program back in high school, which was the only place I identified with and felt safe. College encouraged me to pursue my bachelor's degree and now I can say that CSUMB is providing me with the opportunity to pursue higher education.

Growing up as a migrant child and immigrating to California at the age of four was a major life challenge, not only due to immersion in a new culture but also because of the difficulty I faced when learning English. Spanish, my native language, has always been part of my life. When I was given the opportunity to choose a foreign language to study for my high school requirements, I immediately decided Spanish was the language I wanted to learn more about. During my senior year of high school, I remember being in the Advanced Placement Course and receiving the seal of biliteracy. I felt so proud of myself and I decided to help others learn this language of opportunity. A bachelor's in Spanish is what I realized I needed to pursue in order to reach this goal.

I remember visiting California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB) during a summer school field trip when I was in elementary school. When I was given the option to apply to four universities, I placed this university as my first choice. Not only was this close to home, but it was also one of my dreams to attend. I entered CSUMB as a junior because I already completed my associate's degree at Hartnell College.

My goal in pursuing my bachelor's degree in Spanish Language and Hispanic Cultures is to obtain my California single-subject teaching credential in order to become a middle and/or high school Spanish teacher, and possibly a Spanish Professor. I believe that students during adolescence are more in need of help from faculty. Also, teaching students whose first language is not Spanish will be a life-changing experience for them. Other than obtaining my teaching credential, I am also interested in pursuing my J.D. in Law. Helping my community is one of my academic and career goals, whether it is through teaching or practicing law. With this in mind, one day I hope to become an Immigration Attorney along with a Spanish Professor.