

ISMAEL MILLAN

INTERVIEWED BY LINDA SAH

The following interview was conducted on behalf of the oral history program of the Washington County Museum and Century High School. The interviewee is Ismael Millan. The interviewer is Linda Sah. The interview took place at Century High School on Tuesday May 25, 2004 at 1:10 pm.

LINDA: Were you and your family born in the US or did you migrate here from another country?

ISMAEL: I was born here and everybody else was except for my dad, he was born in Mexico

LINDA: Why did you and your family decide to live in Hillsboro?

ISMAEL: My mom's family just came down here, I have no idea why. I guess they just did. So we just continued living here.

LINDA: How does your family emphasize education? Did they support it?

ISMAEL: They supported it, they think it's very important because **not many people in our family have graduated from high school- neither of my parents have.** They want my brother, sister, and I to go to be able to go to college and finish high school. Things like that so we could have a good career and not just like a regular job.

LINDA: What are your feelings towards the education system in the Hillsboro School District? Do they have special programs that are geared towards Hispanics that you are involved in?

ISMAEL: Yeah there's two- **Project Plus and Project Connection for Hispanic students to get into college.**

LINDA: Can you elaborate on that?

ISMAEL: **They help us fill out college applications and find scholarships.**

LINDA: Describe your first experiences in school in the US. What were your experiences with the language barriers?

ISMAEL: I've always known English because my mom was born here, so it wasn't really any different.

LINDA: How comfortable do you feel in school?

ISMAEL: I feel very comfortable just like everyone else.

LINDA: Do you feel that you have the same opportunities as other non-Hispanic students?

ISMAEL: I think we have the same, and we also have more because there are a lot of things that are geared towards the minority.

LINDA: Describe the relationship between fluent English-speaking Hispanics and other Hispanics.

ISMAEL: Regular Hispanics that don't know English might think that people who speak English that are Hispanic are trying to act like they're something that they are not or trying to act white.

LINDA: Do you personally face racism or stereotyping out of school?

ISMAEL: I haven't recently but people have said things to me like, "Go back to Mexico" or "Go back to where you came from," but it doesn't really bother me.

LINDA: Do you think Hillsboro School District provides enough support for Hispanic students?

ISMAEL: I think they do because they have ESL and Spanish news, things like that.

LINDA: What programs do you think have the most beneficial impact on Hispanic students?

ISMAEL: I think ESL because it teaches you English and things that you need to know.

LINDA: What do you want to see changed about certain programs?

ISMAEL: Spanish news. They have it, but most of the time they don't let us watch it, so I don't even know why they have it if they don't let us watch it.

LINDA: In your experience have you received adequate support from teachers and staff?

ISMAEL: I think I get support like regular students. I don't think I get treated... not normally. I think Hispanics want to be treated normally not like treated special because they're Hispanics.

LINDA: Do you feel any drive to succeed in high school?

ISMAEL: Yeah I do, I want to get a good job and not just get a minimum wage job like... a regular students I guess.

LINDA: In what other ways do you feel language or cultural barriers have affected you?

ISMAEL: I don't really think they have.

LINDA: Are you or were you involved in ESL?

ISMAEL: No I wasn't.

LINDA: Have you participated in any other programs directed to help Hispanics?

ISMAEL: Just Project Plus and Project Connection, that's it.

LINDA: Is there anything else that you wanted to tell me about?

ISMAEL: I don't think there is anything else.

LINDA: Do you feel that other Hispanics that you hang out with have the same drive to succeed?

ISMAEL: Not all of them. Some of them are going to just get a job after school; they don't even really care about college.

LINDA: Do you think that they feel that a language barrier is preventing them from succeeding?

ISMAEL: I don't think it's that. I think it's maybe because of their parents.

LINDA: Do you think that maybe the way other students treat Hispanics sometimes can affect how Hispanics feel about themselves or about what they want to do?

ISMAEL: I'm not sure.

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