

Drew – What types of scholarships are available for Hispanics in the District?

Taylor – Well, there are two scholarships that prioritize minorities. I think specifically Hispanics but that's not necessarily a criteria so the person wins doesn't necessarily need to be Hispanic but they sort of encourage Hispanics to apply. I believe it's the Nicky Squire and I believe it's the Gordon Vapor scholarship.

Drew – Are there any particular career paths that center...

Taylor – I want to go back to the question though, cause it is a concern to me that we don't have more. I would like to see us have a way to honor students who are some of our second language students who have quickly transitioned into the regular curriculum. But naturally can't quite compete with the GPA because of that transition. But have really achieved a great deal and I'd like to find a way to honor them.

Drew – So, particular career paths that might be available right out of high school?

Taylor – Well, I don't know of anything that is particularly centered. It's the same issue as all our students looking at what their skills and interests are and trying to channel them into the correct curriculum. To looking at Hispanics, Mr. Kellar does a that of work. We do a self directed search and it's in Spanish for students that wish to take it in Spanish. And again it is to help them look at their interests and place them in a career and allows them to research that career. That's where their ELL teacher is helpful. ECOS, the computer program that helps us lead them into careers is an English program, not in Spanish, but they help them they work with them and they try to get them to look at that. I think there are a lot of opportunities for a lot of those students over at PCC and a lot of them check out PCC.

Drew – Over time, how do you feel about what the Hillsboro School District has done for Hispanic students?

Taylor – I was hoping you would ask that question. I've been in the HSD for about 20 years now and in the late 80s and 90s I was very concerned about the number of students that were being mainstreamed. That they just seemed to get to the ESL program and they just stalled and they weren't mainstreamed and moved into the regular classrooms and giving opportunities and not having people help them in the regular classroom. In the last 7 years or so especially since I have been at Century I have noticed a changing, that we have more students mainstreamed and I'm very excited about that. I've lived in Hillsboro for 25 years and when I came to Hillsboro it was probably less than 30,000 and now it is up to 80,000. So, many changes here and it's just amazing but one of the changes and one of the things I really like about Hillsboro is that it has a big Hispanic community and we can get great Mexican food anywhere in this town, actually better than Mexico sometimes! And I went to a restaurant here in Hillsboro and I was fortunate there was a Century staff person there but the waitress could not speak English and my Spanish is not particular good so I struggled and she came over and helped me out. But, that's a strength that's a cool thing I like about Hillsboro and so we do need to be sensitive to our Hispanic community because we are a bilingual community and I think a lot of people forget that and don't recognize that. One of the things that has happened that has concerned me is when they developed the boundaries for Liberty they really consciously moved down Main Street and took the 12<sup>th</sup> street apartments area and put them out at Liberty and I think that is a bad decision. It makes it difficult for a lot of Hispanics, for the parents that live there many of them have to use the mass transit systems. It was easy for them to take the bus down TV highway to Century but there isn't a mass transit



system that delivers people to Liberty. It doesn't even get you to Fred Meyers. So, I think that was a decision that was not sensitive to our Hispanic community. That's my view.

Drew – Do the translators at our school make it a lot easier to get in contact with Hispanic students that may not know much English? Make it easier for them to know what is available for them?

Taylor – Yes, yes, yes. We have a wonderful person, Maria Hernandez in our department here who is unfortunately only here in the mornings, that's not a good thing. She is really great and very informed about our program, our curriculum, and helping students understand. So, when we are enrolling students she comes in and interprets and helps us out so we are basically able to give the same information to our incoming Hispanic students.

Drew – About how many students a day, on average, do you get in here asking you for help about life after high school?

Taylor – Yeah, I couldn't give you a number Maria is very busy with the students but I feel that this another area, I think, that we have done a better job is that the more advanced ESL students do access the counselors more than they used to. They come in they talk with us and especially because with our ESL kids when they come in they don't always take things in the exact same sequence because of the language. Especially with Social Studies so it is so we need to be in communication when they get to be Junior and Seniors about how that schedules and they are much better about self advocating and I think that has to do with the support staff and the teachers that work with the students and encouraging these students to access all the services in the school. I think there was a time when ESL department would just kind of keep them and be everything to them and they would not access the building, that isn't true here. It may be true in other buildings but it isn't true here.

Drew – Can you think of any specific ideas that we think our school could do to help out Hispanic students? During school and after there Senior year?

Taylor – Yes, I do. I think that one of the areas and I'm sure that you look at statistics and I'm sure you know there is a much higher drop out rate. That's a big problem and one of the things is that we have students that really aren't interested in a diploma they come here to learn English. They are not interested in a diploma because that it is not a realistic goal because maybe they are coming to this country when they are 17. They just aren't going to be able to do, but they know they need to learn English as best they can, I wish we a way to address that population differently. I believe we're a diploma program and that we should work with people who have that goal. Now I know goals change and that's were the issue gets really sensitive, when someone comes in and then only has the goal to do emission and maybe they do really want to try to do the diploma and go to college. So, it's a sensitive issue but I also think that, there should be a way in which students can move back and forth. But I really think that were not, that we can better meet the needs of students that are really interested in English by providing that in a different way in a different location in a different facility. But I do think that we have to many kids who dropout from school and finding and having liaisons between the Hispanic community and our school would be really wonderful thing if we could afford. People who are involved in the Hispanic community and working with all the organizations who work with parents and are able to access services and be able to work with students and keep them in school.

Drew – Do you have anything else that you would like to add that we may not have touched on?

Taylor – Well, just one more thing on the dropout I think one of things and I think this is for all of our students is we don't have enough alternatives for our students. So, when we look at dropout prevention, we need more...one shoe does not fit all. And we need to have more opportunities for all of our students. But that really becomes glaring with the statistics so high for the Hispanic community that some day we will have the resources and the money that we will be able to offer realistic alternatives and options for Hispanic students.

Drew – Alright well thanks a lot.

Taylor – Okkkaaayyyy....