

Interview With a Student
Estella De Jesus Hernandez
Interviewer-Tracey Rodriguez
May 21 2004

Tracey-Interview # 2 Date May 21 2004, its about 2:40 interviewees name Estella De Jesus Hernandez.

T.R- Estella, Where you and your family born in the United States or did you come here from another country?

E.H-My family was born in Mexico.

T.R-What was your family situation before coming to the United States?

E.H-My family's situation was, we where poor, we couldn't support ourselves{spoke too softly to be understood}but we didn't have enough that's why we moved here to the United States.

T.R-And what did your father do?

E.H-My father always worked here (United States) because there is a lot of people in my family. I have six brothers, and he worked here so he can work and send the money to us. {Spoke too softly for it to be understood}

T.R- How old where you when you came to the United States?

E.H-I was seventeen years old.

T.R-Seventeen?

E.H-Yes because it was the year 2002.

T.R- So you you've only been here for a little while?

E.H-Yes, I've only been here a while.

T.R- how was your trip to the United States like?

E.H-My trip?

T.R-How did you come here?

E.H-I came first of all because my dad applied for us to come here{ United States}legally in 1995 and the appointment came in 2002 that's why we came, on bus, and we got held up in Juarez to do an interview with Immigration, and from there, we came here{Hillsboro} it took about, 2 weeks.

T.R-How did your family decide to move to Hillsboro? Did your father already work or you just decided to move to Hillsboro?

E.H-Because my dad had a job here he works in a Nursery and that's why we decided to stay here.

T.R-How does your family define education?

E.H-Education for us, is better{here}because we have all the technology, advanced, that way we learn more, from where I came from there was no technology.

T.R What where the schools like where you lived?

E.H-They where poor, but because they had no technology, they where only rooms there wasn't enough supplies for the teachers to teach us.

T.R-How was your first experience with the schools in the United States?

E.H-When I first came I was surprised, because I have never been in a place so big. I came from Guaca, it's a poor place, and I was surprised because it was so big, and the people where so different everyone spoke English.

T.R-Do you feel comfortable in school?

E.H-Well, now I understand more English, and I feel like I'm getting used to{the United States}

T.R-Is there something that can make you feel more comfortable in school?

E.H- No.

T.R-So your perfectly comfortable in school?

E.H-Yes I believe I'm good.

T.R-Do you think that Hispanic students have the same opportunities as other students that are not Hispanic?(pause) As in, they can get the same education as other people that are not Hispanic, the same opportunities to be in activities as other students that are not Hispanic here at Century?

IV E.H- I believe so, I believe we all have the same right, and I believe that yes we all have the right to join activities that we can fulfill.

T.R-Here, have you experienced racism or stereotypical remarks?

E.H-Sometimes, but some humans are that way, and others are not like that, but I haven't experienced, rarely.

T.R- Sometimes? But how do you feel when you hear something racist?

V E.H- How do I feel? Well sometimes I feel sad, kind of bad, but start to think that them {people making racist comments} and me are humans {spoke too softly for it to be understood}

T.R- What are your feelings toward the district and how they tell school to teach kids?

E.H-I think that the district supports the students so they can go succeed, I think in my case they're doing a good job, because where I came from, from the school that I came from, it isn't anything like it is here, I think the district is doing more than enough for me.

T.R-So do you think that the district supports the Hispanic kids?

E.H-I think so, because for me, I think so because (pause)

V T.R-Like with all the programs we have like migrant summer school, or ESL do you think with that the district is supporting the Hispanic students?

E.H- Yes I think so because, they give special classes to Hispanics, so they can learn English, I think so.

T.R-Do you know that CIM test that we have to take? A CIM test that they give us sometimes, have you taken those in Spanish or in English?

E.H- I have taken them in English.

T.R-Would you have refer them in Spanish or in both languages?

E.H-I think in both languages, that way one can learn more what the problem says.

T.R-What do you think is the relationship with Hispanics that speak English very well and those who do not speak English very well? (pause) The relationship between the two? (pause)

E.H-What?

T.R-How do Hispanics who speak English very well get along with Hispanics who don't speak English very well?

E.H-I think that some do get along well, others don't, when I came here the Hispanics that spoke English helped me a lot, I think they do get along well.

T.R-What programs do you think that the district has do you think helps Hispanics more?

✓ E.H- I think that the ESL program helps, and the migrant summer school, because my brothers, my little brothers go to summer school and they have a lot of fun, they say its a lot of fun.

T.R- And you want those programs to change or do you think the way they are know they are helping, or are they not helping?

✓ E.H I think the- I think the programs are helping a lot because sometimes they give backpacks and pencils to the kids{in the migrant school program} I think they're great.

T.R-In what ways do you think that language or the different cultures, create a barrier concerning your education?(pause) Like, you have a different language and culture then the school, do you think that it creates a barrier to you education?

E.H-no(pause) I think that the culture{speaks way too softly to be understood, slurs words together}

T.R- Your in ESL right? Are you just involved in ESL or are you in the class?

E.H-Yes I am taking the class, and I'm learning a lot.

T.R-What do they teach you in ESL?

E.H-They teach me to read, to write in English, how to say the words, and that's it.

T.R-Do they teach you how to write, read, and how to speak Spanish better in ESL?

E.H-Yes they do. I speak Spanish but there are some words I don't understand, and I ask the teacher to tell me what they mean, and she tells me what they mean.

T.R-And also do they teach you, so you won't forget to read or write in Spanish?

E.H-Right now I have two classes I have a Spanish one, and ESL. For me, it's better because when I go home, I speak Spanish, and the words I don't know, I understand more in Spanish and when I go to English I speak English and the teacher teaches me more {English?}

T.R- Have you participated in any other programs in the school or in the district that are designed to help Hispanic kids?(pause)I know your in ESL but where you for example) involved in the migrant summer school for high school age students?

IV E.H-Unfortunately when I came I didn't go, but my brothers go. Because my mom is sick, my father works, and in the summer I mostly work and I just can't go but my brothers go.

T.R-When you first came here did your parents want you to work or for you to be in school?

E.H-My parents wanted me to go to school, they wanted me to learn so that in my future I can have a good job.

T.R-and you said that your father came here to send money to you guys? When did he come to the United States?

E.H-He came in 1985, that's when he started to come and go, come and go.

T.R-And finally he just stayed here in the United States or did he continue to come and go?

III E.H- In strawberry season he would come over here, and then he would come back here{to Mexico}. And it was like that until 1992 my dad says, when he got into the nursery business and nursery is all year-round, and so he only came here{Mexico}when they gave him a vacation, and then he could come back{to the United States}

T.,R-So he started to stay longer in the United States?

E.H-Yes.

T.R-From the very beginning when your father was coming over here{the Unites States}was it already decided that you guys would also move to the united states, or was he only here to send his family money?

E.H- In the very beginning it was only to send us money, but later my family started to grow, my brothers where born, and he felt that the family was too big, and there wasn't enough money, and it was better for us to come up here, and we could work in the strawberry fields during the summer and help him out.

T.R-And you mom worked in Mexico or...?

E.H-Yes she worked in the fields, me and her, me, her, and my brothers{spoke to softly to be understood}

T.R-And what is the biggest difference you can think of between Mexico and the U.S.A?

E.H-There are a lot of differences because over there, from where I came from, mainly Guaca, that is a very poor place, there is no technology, no laboratories or computers to help you study, and here you can find everything, there is a lot of help here to coming from the school, and I think you can learn more here, more then in Guaca.

T.R-And in Guaca the school didn't help out the students or?

E.H-They did help, but not a lot. They did help with {speaks way to softly, slurs almost all words}

T.R-So they had not money to help the students?

E.H No, no.

T.R-Did you guys at least have books or?

E.H-Yes we had few books and there where tables, not a lot, but there where some.

T.R Do you think that in the school you where once in, did you learn more materials then you do here?

E.H-You don't have to chose classes there, they give you the classes. And here there are a lot of classes that you can chose from and this is better because you can chose things that you like, things that you like to do and over there they chose the classes for you so you don't have to.

T.R-Where you afraid the first day you where going to attend an American High School?

E.H-Yes I was very afraid because one of my cousins told me that there was no Spanish, all English. So I was very scared, I had no one to talk to, I had no friends, I was very nervous.

T.R- But soon you saw that in Century people where nice and they helped you the first weeks of school so you wouldn't feel so nervous or scared?

E.H- Yes, the other Hispanic students where the ones that helped me.

T.R-They told you where to find the classes and such?

E.H- Yes.

T.R-What are your plans for after high school?

E.H-Well since I'm 19 years, and I already have all the credits I need, and I'm going to PCC to take more ESL to learn English daily there, then go to a 4 year school chose a career, I want to study to be a nurse.

T.R-Is there something else that I didn't ask that you want to add?

E.H-No everything is fine.