

**Interview with Oralia Aguilar-Becerra, CHS student
Conducted by Andrew Weber
May, 2004**

Andrew: Where you and your family born in the United States, or did you migrate here from another country?

Oralia: I immigrate here from another country. From Mexico.

A: What was your family situation like before you came to the United States?

O: It was really bad. I had to start working at the age of four years; when I was four. In the field, and then on the weekends in the [unintelligible]

A: Is there anything in particular that prompted you to come here? You and your family?

O: My dad... was the one who brought us here.

A: What was the trip like?

O: Scary. It was really scary.

A: Is there a reason you decided to stay in Hillsborro?

O: I just like it here. I don't know. I lived in Cornelius for one year, but then I moved here, and I like here better.

A: How, if they do, does your family emphasize education?

O: What is... [emphasize]

A: Emphasize. More important than something else.

O: Oh.

A: They support education then?

O: Not really.

A: What are your feelings towards the education system in Hillsboro?

O: I think it's great.

A: First experiences in a school system in the United States? Could you describe some experiences, your first experiences in the....

O: There's a lot of help for the Hispanic

A: Like, Like, when you first came, like, I dunno, your first day in school, like, in a United States school, ya know? What was it like?

O: Different. Everybody was just makin' fun of me. That the answer you want?

A: No, there's no right answer, we're just tryin...

Drew: How did it feel the first time you came in? Was it scary?

O: Scary.

D: Scary.

O: [unintelligible]

D: Did you get a lot of help that first day? Like were you- did the teachers pretty much....

O: Mmmhmm

A: Do you feel you have the same opportunities in school as non-Hispanics?

O: Mmmhmm. Yeah.

A: Ok, and in our school, can you describe what you see as the relationship between English-speaking Hispanics and just Spanish-speaking Hispanics?

O: Like...what?

A: How they interact with each other

O: Some of them, they don't interact. They're just like- When fluent English-Spanish speaking?

A: Yeah?

O: They get like [all up on high?] They think they're better than us.

A: Do you face racism or stereotyping in our school?

O: No.

A: No?

O: No.

A: OK. Do you think the school provides enough support for Hispanics?

O: Yes. A lot.

A: What programs, if any, that the school has do you think are most beneficial?

O: The ESL program. It helps a lot. Yeah.

A: Is there anything you want to see changed about any of the programs?

O: One thing I would like [them?] to have is like...mecha? I don't know, it's a club.

A: M. E. C. H. A.?

O: Yeah. But then, it's gone now. [Unintelligible]

A: Do you receive adequate support from teachers and staff?

O: Mmmhmm

A: And you're motivated to succeed in school?

O: Mmmhmm

A: How has the language or cultural barrier affected your ability to learn and interact with your teachers in school?

O: Difficult. Sometimes it's difficult for me to understand, and for them to understand me.

A: Mmk. And, you're involved in ESL?

O: Not really.

A: No?

O: Huh-mh.

A: And, participate in any other programs for Hispanic aid?

O: I'm a volunteer [unintelligible] in Western Farmworkers' Association. And it's all volunteer work.

A: Is there anything else that you would like to add- that you want to say?

O: I would like to let everyone know that even though that we're Hispanic, we can do it.
[Unintelligible]