

So, my name is Victor Perez-Carrillo I was born and raised in Mexico until I was 10 years old and then I moved up here. It was 2013 I was 10 years old. My dad has been working for many years to work with my step grandparents. They own a quarry up here, so they decided to bring us up and give us an opportunity that we didn't have back home in Mexico. So my dad was here since he was 17 he lost his parents at a young age, so he had to survive by himself so he came here and he ended up with my what we call step grandparents here and they met me when I was like four, so then they would go down to Mexico to visit me, so I knew them pretty good and they decided they wanted to bring my family because they really liked us. Now we live with them. Well like I said, growing up in a small village in Mexico and the transportation being a donkey, my dad wasn't always here working so that made me really sad because I had to fight for money to support my family because I wanted to bring my dad back to Mexico with us, so I started many entrepreneur events like I sold lemonade and coffee walking around town in my village trying to get money which might sound kind of childish, but I wanted to make that happen which never did. So, I bought a donkey and started giving people rides grocery shopping to make money, which that didn't work, but my parents finally beat the court systems so we were able to come here. Other major challenges, like I said, that's a whole new language and lifestyles we have to adapt to. The place we came to is not really many ethnicities, mainly Native American and Caucasian ethnicities. When I came here, I only got a week notice that I was coming, so I never got to say bye to my friends like my classmates and all that, so that was pretty heart breaking the first year and we didn't have a phone down there. I got a phone like a few years later when I came here so like my friends are in Mexico didn't have phones either, so I couldn't communicate with them. Then since I was legalized, I'm able to come back and forth, so that made it nice since I can go see them. Then I was the only Hispanic or other ethnicity in my school, so it was a difficult challenge trying to adapt to talk to my friends and all that. I spend a lot of a lot of headaches and hours trying to learn English. I was put in a fifth-grade class and I just showed up that day and I don't know what I was doing. So, they had an aide. They hired a person that spoke a little Spanish and a hired a program called Rosetta stone, so during the day we would have to sit down and I'd have to repeat myself over and over again until I finally passed and that took at least all fifth grade. It was just lots and lots of headaches. I needed to do it because I could see my parents were struggling with English and my older brother was struggling pretty good too, so I decided that I had to do it to help them out. My main goal is to be a federal law enforcement officer, so I thought maybe getting military experience in college would give me experience and give me knowledge with the bachelor's degree, so I could put those in and be a better law enforcement officer. So, I already got that the University of Montana then all that said, I just need to make a decision right now. I'm hoping to stay on track to get my path to college and be the first one in my family to get a college degree. Yes, it is definitely hard when you don't have anybody else who already went through it so you can't really ask them how it is. I'm going to make my parents proud and then I'm going to break that barrier that stops their family from growing. I want to be not just the only one, I want to be the first one of many more to come. I'm most proud of all the adversity I've overcome like learning a new language. I'm pretty proud of that, and I mean I'm still practicing, and I still have to learn a little more. It was a lot of bullying too when I first came here, a lot of people supported me, which was really nice that they're really friendly, but some people since I didn't know the language you know they ridiculed me and all that, but I just didn't let none of that stopped me from working hard and achieving. I want to overcome any adversity and I just have a strong drive to better my future.