

At the early age of 17, my father left his comfortable home in Guatemala and started to head toward the American Dream. His journey to this country was not easy, and with the middle school education he had, he was able to lift his family back in the homeland as well as meet my mom and have a family of his own. My dad has been a big figure in my life, he is amazing for the person he is even though he went through all of what he went through. It inspires me to work harder in my studies because it is a way to not only acknowledge his hard work but that his efforts are not taken for granted. His story inspires me and only helps my story and personality grow.

Not only did he have to mature at a younger age, but during his adult life, he had experienced a construction accident that nearly took his life away as well as took him off the workforce for 7 years. My family and I went through much hardship. My brother and I definitely learned new skills and grew from this experience. Despite these challenges, my father always encouraged us to continue our studies and to not allow trials and tribulations get in the way of you pursuing your dreams and especially the ones that lead you toward success. These values and words of wisdom particularly stuck with me during this difficult time or whenever I didn't have any motivation. I thank God for allowing me to have my dad with me everyday of my life because I truly wouldn't know what I would do without his jokes, presence, and advice. But I also thank my mom for being a bright and dedicated female figure, mother, sister, and coworker, who inspires me to not let other people ruin my goals and aspirations. She was a strong example of work ethic and persevering through hardships.



My father has always taught me to follow my dreams and that if I work hard enough, they will indeed come true. I have been working hard in and out of school to be able to not only help them but to show myself self reliance. The values that both my mom and dad brought to me have influenced my education, but more in particular with my dad's story. I am able to push myself more to the fullest and know that it will all contribute for the better of my family and I. As a first generation college student, education is a step closer not only toward a better future but I am able to provide my family with a better future, life, and commodity. I hope to not only inspire those around me, but my future family. I know this journey will not be easy, where I come across all these bumps on the road, but every time I remember my parents' sacrifice for their kids and their education, it pushes me beyond.