

## **Diversity / Perspective**

Growing up bilingual, I often found myself serving as a bridge between my grandparents, who spoke only Spanish, and the English-speaking world around us. From a young age, I translated forms at the doctor's office, interpreted conversations at parent-teacher conferences, and helped navigate situations that required cultural understanding. These responsibilities weren't always easy. I sometimes struggled to find the right words or feared making mistakes that could affect important outcomes. Over time, however, I developed patience, empathy, and a deep appreciation for the power of clear communication. I also learned to view situations from multiple perspectives, considering both my family's cultural expectations and the norms of the broader society.

This experience has shaped how I interact with people from diverse backgrounds. I am particularly aware of how language barriers and cultural differences can create misunderstandings or prevent individuals from fully participating in opportunities. On campus, I hope to bring this perspective by helping create inclusive programs for multilingual students, volunteering in mentorship initiatives, and advocating for spaces where all voices are heard. I want to foster an environment where differences are celebrated rather than overlooked, and where everyone feels empowered to contribute their unique experiences.

Navigating between two cultures has taught me resilience, adaptability, and the importance of listening as much as speaking. I aim to carry these lessons into my college community, not only by supporting others but also by learning from their perspectives, ultimately contributing to a richer, more inclusive campus environment.