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IBCF Scholarship

### Prompt 5: Choosing my Major

Deciding on a college major does not come easy to everyone. Some take years to find their passion. Others change their minds multiple times. This, however, was not the case for me. Being a teacher is the only career that has ever crossed my mind. I have always wanted a career that allows me to help others and majoring in education while minoring in Spanish are a great opportunity to accomplish that goal.

Since a young age I envisioned myself becoming a teacher. In first grade my classmates and I wrote a book where we each wrote about what we wanted to do when we grew up. In that book, I had already stated that I wanted to be a teacher because I wanted to help kids learn new information such as math facts and reading.

After many years later, that mindset has not changed. I decided to major in education because I want to share my knowledge with young minds. The role of a teacher is not just to educate others but also to inspire, guide, and support. As a teacher, I am given the opportunity to interact with students as I teach them new information; equally important is that I will be fortunate enough to learn from the students as well. It is a reciprocated job because the students can learn from me just as much as I can learn from them. By majoring in education, I want to create an impact on my students' and their family's lives. I plan on being the teacher that students love and respect. Many students have negative experiences in their first years of being part of the education system, which results in them disliking school and not wanting to attend. I want to be

the teacher that makes students look forward to attending school every day because they are excited to learn.

Unfortunately, in the recent years, the perspective of the teacher profession has been seen very negatively. Teachers are not being valued and supported by administration and families and as a result, many teachers are leaving the profession. I hope this changes within the next years and that people start realizing that being a teacher is a very fortunate career. As a teacher, I can share my culture and experiences with my students and I can learn from the diversity that my students will bring to the classroom. My background and past experiences have shaped who I am today and I want to share that with all my students. I take pride in my background and culture that is why I decided to minor in Spanish. As a daughter of two immigrant parents Spanish is my first language: I first learned to speak, read, and write in Spanish. I know what it feels like to be forced to learn and speak a new language that I was not familiar with. By minoring in Spanish, I will be able to teach in a bilingual classroom and emphasize to students that it is okay to feel nervous and uncomfortable to learn a new language. I will remind them that I was once in their shoes; therefore, they should not be afraid because they are not alone. I can be the teacher role model figure that I wished I had as a child.

My decision to major in education and minor in Spanish was impacted by the horse racing community. Growing up, I was in the same classes as my peers that were part of the backstretch community. Almost all of us had many things in common since we were accustomed to being around horses because of our parents' jobs; moreover, our parents were immigrants and our first language was Spanish. In school, we went through the same struggles of eventually being forced to learn and speak English and being put in an all-English class. Once I gain more experience as a teacher, I would love to return to the backstretch to help improve the community.

It would be great if there were programs for the children in the community such as tutoring during the school year or a summer camp program, similar to what was offered back at Arlington. This would provide an extra source of support for the students as well as some distractions from just being indoors using technology. Programs like these will also provide the opportunity for students to work with each other and gain social skills in an environment outside of school.

Choosing my major was an easy decision for me. My college journey has been filled with many learning experiences and exposure to tips and trainings that are preparing me to become a teacher. I am looking forward to graduating this upcoming May and officially have my career that I have been working so hard for. I am excited to demonstrate my strong care for children and their education once I have my own classroom.