

I come from an immigrant background. My grandmother immigrated to the U.S. from Mexico. I am a first-generation Mexican American lesbian, raised by a single mother who faced the challenges of raising children without help. My family went through several barriers to receive and gain access to medical and mental health services while growing up in a rural farmland town in Wisconsin due to lack of insurance, income, or the stigma of receiving help from public welfare programs.

Through this experience, and my own subsequent experiences, I had to learn about life by myself. The defining moment was coming out to my family and realizing this was another journey to be walked in solitude. I had to survive single handedly, with no support system. No one should have to suffer life alone. Social work is a profession that can serve entire families, communities, organizations and individuals, so they do not have to survive alone. As a person of purpose, I have always believed it is my objective to accompany others of similar hardships on difficult journeys.

I have entered into a program that has changed my entire outlook and view on life. It is no longer a “ME” position but a “WE” position. I am dedicated to helping individuals that are marginalized and are vulnerable to racist programs and policy. My passion is to aid all individuals in receiving and having their basic needs met, which includes food, healthcare, mental healthcare, shelter, compassion, and love even if it’s from a stranger. In helping individuals, including Black, Indigenous, and people of color, who may be of different sexual orientation, ethnicity, disability, homeless insecurity (homelessness), addiction, and many more, are effected by laws, policies, and programs negatively.

Becoming a social worker, I would be able to address the gap(s) that exists within the Latinx and LGBTQ community by integrating and implementing therapy with the intention of removing bias formulated throughout our lives. By sharing knowledge and experience within the communities served I can ensure and raise awareness of mental health issues. While embracing and honoring my culture, I can bring different perspectives of how Latinx families react to mental health and help eradicate common stereotypes within the institutions I am a part of. I want to serve as a resource and advocate for vulnerable populations; driving direct dialogue about dismantling systemic oppression and bringing about environmental and individual changes.