

Narrator: Cynthia Juarez

Interviewer: Juliana Villani

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JV: "All right, hello my name is Juliana Villani. I am currently a second year at UC San Diego and currently I am in HIUS 120D umm and yeah I am doing my interview here with Cynthia. Thank you for being here and for doing this again with me."

CJ: "Of course"

JV: "We had some technical difficulties last time but glad we are redoing it and the audio is all good and yeah let's do it. All right, first I'm going to start with some general questions. So can you please introduce yourself, your full name, your age, your school year you are currently in, and what school you are currently attending, and how many years you have been at BLCI [Barrio Logan College Institute]."

CJ: "My name is Cynthia Juarez. I go to East Village College High School where I am a sophomore and I have been in BLCI [Barrio Logan College Institute] since I think 4th or 5th grade and I am 15 years old."

JV: "Sweet, good to hear. Um, and how would you describe yourself in about three words?"

CJ: "Um, I would say I am very talkative and social for sure and I'd also say understanding."

JV: "That's good, good to hear. Um, where do you see yourself in possibly 5 years, since you are a sophomore right now, yeah maybe 5 years or 10 years, yeah?"

CJ: "Ideally I would like to go to college and study forensics. So I'd like to see myself in the future going to college and getting a degree in forensic science."

JV: "Nice, totally, that's so cool. Yeah and you said that forensic science is like criminal justice, right? We talked about this a little bit"

CJ: "Yeah"

JV: “Ok ok okay shoot, I always get confused by that word but that's totally cool. Okay cool, I'm now going to ask a couple of early life questions and yeah. What was it like growing up for you?”

CJ: “So I have four siblings. So I always had a lot of people around you know, my parents worked hard but I believe that they gave me everything that I needed especially since I have a lot of siblings and they had a lot of mouths to feed. But I think I had a really good childhood and I got everything that I needed even though there were a lot of people but I liked the environment that I grew up in and my parents made the best of what they could with the resources that they were given. So I would say that I had a pretty fulfilling childhood.”

JV: “That’s great, and you said that you always grew up in San Diego, correct?”

CJ: “Yes”

JV: “So you have always been in the same area your whole life?”

CJ: “Yes, I have been here my whole life.”

JV: “Nice, great to hear. Were you involved in any clubs or cliques growing up?”

CJ: “In elementary school, I was in the Cesar Chavez Club and I was president for a few years. Currently right now I am in the (?) Mujeres club here at BLCI [Barrio Logan College Institute] and I'm in BLCI [Barrio Logan College Institute] of course.”

JV: “Cool, and you said that that club is a Women's Club, right?”

CJ: “Yes, it's like a women's circle and a place for young girls to hang out and have fun.”

JV: “Totally, that sounds so fun, I love that for you. Ok so another question, I know that you said that you visited outside of San Diego various times, you said that your sister goes to UC Davis and that you have some family in Mexico, correct?”

CJ: “Yes”

JV: “Ok, so how were these places different from San Diego in ways like culture and physical environment and did you like this or did you not?”

CJ: “Yeah so when my sister went to college, I believe it was the first time going up California so it was, since here in San Diego it is very densely populated with Hispanic people, it was very

different to see especially a college town with a bunch of different people, it was very cool to see the different types of people at a very big school. It was definitely a positive experience and it definitely added to the reasons why I wanted to go to college and experience and meet different types of people. When I first went to Mexico as a kid it was very familiar to me since I grew up with a lot of people around me and of course, here at Barrio Logan, there are a lot of Mexican people so Mexico felt very familiar and somewhat felt like home to me. So I didn't feel that it was that culturally different, or as I saw it as a child, but I would say that it was definitely a positive experience to be in Mexico.”

JV: “That’s great, that’s great. And I also remember that you, I know that I brought this up a couple times, but you said that you were looking for possibly a college maybe outside of the state but possibly because of the finances you would want to stay in the state, correct?”

CJ: “Yeah, for sure.”

JV: “Cool, cool. Ok so, what does your daily routine look like for a day that you come to BLCI [Barrio Logan College Institute]?”

CJ: “I go to BLCI [Barrio Logan College Institute] on Wednesdays and Thursdays and I get out of school around three-fifty. So I get here around five if I need to do homework so I have about an hour to get help with tutoring or just need a space to do homework. And my workshop starts at six and I think the workshops are around an hour and thirty minutes so it ends around seven and that's for the days that I do have workshops. But sometimes on Thursdays I have (?) which is the club I mentioned before and that one starts at six and ends at seven so basically the same as a workshop. I usually get here early to set up and plan if I need to but yeah I usually that's what it looks like when I come to BLCI [Barrio Logan College Institute].”

JV: “Nice, and yeah you said that you were involved in this club, do you set up a lot of events for this club or you're just a member and do the workshops?”

CJ: “Yes I'm part of the committee and we just had a big event for Mother's Day so that's usually the big event that we have. But usually we have workshops or just like meetings every Thursday.”

JV: “Sweet! All right, the next question, what was your view on college and/ or education before BLCI [Barrio Logan College Institute] and how did BLCI [Barrio Logan College Institute], if it did, change your perspective?”

CJ: “Yeah so my sister, my older sister the one in college, Also came to BLCI [Barrio Logan College Institute] so ever since I was a young kid my mom always wanted me to look up to my

sister since she was in this program and saw how much it helped her. So as soon as I was old enough to understand what college was, I was already getting to know a lot about it through my older sister. BLCI [Barrio Logan College Institute] has definitely helped me understand more about the different types of colleges and all the different options through my family and through my older sister.”

JV: “Alright cool, so, what have you found the most beneficial thing about the BLCI [Barrio Logan College Institute] for you and for your family if any and why?”

CJ: “Yeah, so I would say what I found the most beneficial for me is definitely tutoring. It helps whenever I have questions for anything and I think it's definitely helped me before with math especially. I have a small school I can definitely ask teachers but also having extra help at BLCI [Barrio Logan College Institute] makes me feel more reassured that if I don't get anything I know I will eventually. The BLCI also gives me more space to work, you know I have a little brother and he's very loud, sometimes when I need somewhere to do homework if I come to BLCI for about an hour or two. So I would say this is definitely what benefits me the most. But also my mom takes a lot of classes here like sewing or like dancing and I think it's very beneficial for her to learn new things. But yeah it also says that BLCI offers a lot of things that could help especially for the parents involved, providing classes for different types of things.”

JV: “Yeah honestly I didn't know too much about BLCI coming here, but I found out that the program infiltrates or really emphasizes parent involvement within the student involvement which I think is a really really great thing for the whole program. So yeah, great to hear and to know more about BLCI. Okay so second to last question, I know that you said that you have four siblings, one is in college, are your siblings involved in BLCI or were involved at BLCI and do you hope that they become involved?”

CJ: “So my older sister was involved in BLCI for a couple years, I believe since 10th grade, so she did it a little late but I believe that it did really help her a lot. And I do have a little brother who is in first grade and I believe that you can join BLCI when you are in third grade, so I really hope by the time that he is in third grade he will be able to join the BLCI.”

JV: “Nice, totally, that would be so cool, following in your footsteps and following in your sister's footsteps for sure. Cool, so last question: if there's anything that you would like to share that you haven't asked or said before, you are more than free to say anything.”

CJ: “Yeah I would just say that BLCI I definitely does help you get more involved in the community and definitely builds a sense of community around Barrio Logan and BLCI and yeah that's all I would say.”

JV: “Definitely! Good to hear, I appreciate it! You are the best and thank you for your time to meet and talk today!”