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Essay Word Count: 551

Essay: El Paso Community College is the best to start... and finish. What are your goals while attending EPCC, and why?

Pecans have been a staple in my diet since the age of 5 years old, and its roots stem back to when I would take strolls with my Grandma around her neighborhood. We would walk around for quite a while going around the block and even down the street. Her neighborhood was situated in a rural place, so there was plenty of nature surrounding us as we traversed the street. She would get the shell of the pecan and show me how to crack it with my hands; a skill I hold to this day. Those days however, eventually faded like all things in life, as I grew up and spent less time with her, but I would visit her from time to time and noticed how there were less and less crops growing around her. It wouldn't hit me until much later, while taking an AP Environmental class, that it was due to improper agriculture practices. Also, during this course, I had the opportunity to visit and test the Rio Grande. The results showed that it was one of the most polluted rivers in the nation, which got my attention as the pH levels were off the charts. This would act as the ignition of my interest in Environmental Science as I wanted to become more involved in my community to oppose pollution.

This now instilled in my mind, I turned to the conservation of the ecosystem as it would allow me to better and further improve the community in terms of awareness and making a change, no matter how small. Big Corporations take advantage of less educated communities as they don't know if the new pipeline they install has the potential for a spill out or if the new

construction could cause a leak in the soil, harming agriculture and livestock. This hits home for me, having been born and raised in El Paso, a predominately Hispanic community, as this type of environmental racism could be taken against my people.

With this scholarship, I plan to attend EPCC this fall semester and pursue my Associates in Renewable energy technology systems as that deals with organism and their sustainability between the geological/internal environment and its surroundings. After graduating, I would become look for work that deals with an Environmental Geologist, which would me help provide guidance and knowledge to the people who have been systematically oppressed and unable to speak for themselves. Famers are especially prone to this as they might be asked for a plot of their land and may feel obliged due the profit they would initially make. However, this is where they are then taken advantage of as the buyer will do as they please and make their soil unsuitable for any type of agricultural practice and lose money in the long run. I plan to bring awareness to the famers not only on sustainable farming practices but also educating them on all aspects of agriculture so when the time comes, they will be able to make the decision that has their best interest at heart.