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Porvenir Scholarship

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Porvenir Scholarship Essay

Exploring my own culture has been a difficult place for me in my life. I have never felt the need to learn about where I come from, or how my culture involves who I really am. I always had it in the back of my head to focus on myself and do what I want with my life. It never really seemed like I belonged in a Mexican American culture as I always tried to stray away from it. I was never really into the music, the food, or sometimes even the people. Every now and then someone would try to bring me into this world, and I would come up with an excuse to get away from it. For example, my freshman year at El Dorado High School my uncle would try to get me to join the mariachi group at school, but it never really crossed my mind because I was told that it was bad for trumpet players like myself. It was not until my junior year that I had changed my mind, and during my senior year it made me realize this is who I am. I wanted to join the mariachi I felt I could master the music by the time I was a senior. I honestly hated it the first year I played but it all changed when we had this Mexican Mother's Day concert at a retirement home. We played for the many moms that lived there, and I never realized how much of an impact this type of music had on the people who embrace it. I have never seen so many happy women in one room, as they danced and sung along to our music. We even played for mothers on their death beds while their families cried as we watched them smile as we played. The next year I fell in love with the music and with the people. This kind of music is so different from the

other various styles I have played before and it never came to my mind that I would enjoy it so much. I play this music for the people, for my family, and for myself. This music is who I am, it is who I was meant to be. It has made me appreciate my family and where I come from. I regret waiting until the end of my high school years to finally embrace this cultural style when I could have done it years ago. This has probably been the most valuable lesson I have ever learned, and it was eye opening. I have decided to become a music teacher and will be majoring in music education at the University of Texas at El Paso. I want to teach my own children and my students to embrace who you are and where you come from. Do not let yourself be afraid to take a step closer to your family and culture like I did. It is a magical experience to let yourself grow and learn about the people, food, music, anything and everything about your Mexican American culture. I would tell them to do one thing that involves something new towards Mexican American culture and learn from it. You too can learn so much about your family, and more about yourself like I have with my own cultural growth.