

Interview: DREAMer

Maritza: Where are you from?

DREAMer: I'm originally from Mexico, I was born in a relatively small city at the time called Mazatlan in the state of Sinaloa, which is along the coast.

Maritza: When did you come to the United States?

DREAMer: I came to the U. S. at the age of 10, ten years old.

Maritza: Why did you come here?

DREAMer: Well, because my parents... most because we were moving around in Mexico throughout my childhood because my parents were looking for an opportunity to establish a tortilla business, and they were just trying out different places and they thought that San Diego was the best option..

Maritza: Are your parents legally living here?

DREAMer: Yeah, my parents are legally living here, they have a visa, they have an E-2 visa which allows them to work, and also to work here, and their children also are allowed to live here.

Maritza: What are you studying right now?

DREAMer: I'm a double major at San Diego State University; I'm studying French and International Business.

Maritza: What are your plans after you graduate?

DREAMer: I really don't know what's going to happen after my graduation...

Maritza: Do you plan to stay in the United States? Or would you go back to your home country?

DREAMer: It depends, I think everybody's future is somewhat uncertain, but in my case it depends on the document that guarantees I'm legal to stay here, which is my Visa which I obtained through my parents. The thing is that when I turn 21, I'm not longer dependant on my parents and therefore I can no longer renew my visa, and I have the option of either leaving to my country or staying here living illegally or apply to the Deferred Action.

Maritza: Have you applied for the Deferred Action?

DREAMer: No because I am not eligible because I am not illegally yet.

Maritza: Are you planning to actually apply for the Deferred Action?

DREAMer: I think that if worse comes to worse, then yeah, that is my last resort.

Maritza: Have you suffered any type of discrimination from your classmates?

DREAMer: No, I don't think it really impacted me, I mean I did a little when I was in elementary school. I remember this kid saying "oh we live in America, speak English" and stuff like that...having people laugh at me because I pronounce "jell-o" instead of "yellow" ...or little things like that; nothing major.

Maritza: Why would you say that your immigration story is special?

DREAMer: I really don't know, I think we are all special in some way.

Maritza: When you came here, have you accomplished something so great that you would say it was worth coming here? Or would you say you could have had the same type of lifestyle as if you have stayed over there?

DREAMer: That's a good question, because I would not be the person I am today if I had not come here, because this country has given me a lot of opportunities and many doors...I don't know it has given me a different perspective, I think I would not be as open-minded, I don't think I would have seen the thing I have seen or been to the places I have been if I had not come here because the opportunities are more limited in Mexico.

Interview: Kevin

Maritza: Hello Kevin, where are you from?

Kevin: Originally I am from the Philippines and I have lived in Southern California for few years.

Maritza: When did you immigrate to the United States?

Kevin: My dad wanted to have a different work, he wanted to work in the United States instead of the Philippines, we have more opportunities here than back home

Maritza: What are you studying?

Kevin: Political Science

Maritza: Where?

Kevin: At UC San Diego

Maritza: What are your plans after graduation?

Kevin: I'm going to try to go to law school, so trying to get into law

Maritza: What school are you planning to attend afterwards?

Kevin: I'm looking at Columbia, Stanford, and Berkeley

Maritza: If you could vote, for whom would you vote for?

Kevin: Obama

Maritza: Why?

Kevin: I feel the role of the President is more of a figure head for the rest of the world to look at, I feel that most of the domestic issues are up to the Congress to figure out; and on a world-stage, Obama has a lot of support and respect from other countries and I feel that in terms of our foreign relations he is the best state's man to deal with other countries.

Maritza: How did your parents immigrate to the United States?

Kevin: My mom and I first went to Canada and we obtained immigrant status in Canada and then we came here, we drove down here from Canada, and then we lived in San Francisco for a little while, and then my dad flew into Mexico City and then he jumped.

Maritza: Do they have visas?

Kevin: (no)

Maritza: And what about you- do you have a student visa?

Kevin: (no)

Maritza: If the DREAM Act is approved, how would it benefit you?

Kevin: I would be able to work, and right now I am in the process of the DACA, so I just think overall it would help my work opportunities.

Maritza: Have you considered the opportunity of going back to your country?

Kevin: As of right now, not really

Maritza: Why?

Kevin: I feel that, although, I don't have as much opportunities as I would like here, there are still a lot of opportunities here that I should take advantage of them

Maritza: Have you considered other possibilities to remain in the United States even if the DREAM Act is not approved? Let's say, would you marry someone to get the legal status, or something like that?

Kevin: Yeah...well I think I'm a pretty social person so I think I could do it naturally

Maritza: Why would you say your immigration story is special or different from others?

Kevin: My dad came here with five hundred dollars and he used to live in his car to save up for me and my mom to come here, and he has worked pretty hard and right now he is paying for my entire college tuition and he is also saving up enough for me to go into law school, so he has overcome adversity, and I feel he has become pretty successful for his efforts.