

My name is Adolfo González, I was born in Oaxaca, México, in an indigenous community where a native language called Zapoteco is spoken; consequently, my primary language is Zapoteco. After I turned 6 years old, I learned Spanish as my second language. Years later, when I was 24 years old, I emigrated to the United States seeking for a better quality of life and economic stability for my family. In the beginning, I worked in the agricultural fields in Salinas CA. for about 15 years. During these years of hard work, I realized that I had to study English in order to improve my lifestyle; this would be my third language. Thereby, I made the smart decision to enroll at Salinas Adult School; where I was able to acquire basic English and Math skills which helped me to obtain my GED. After that, by recommendations of my professors, in 2003, I enrolled to Hartnell College in Salinas CA. to continue my studies and improve my English knowledge. Unfortunately, for economic reasons, I was forced to abandon school, because I am the main provider in my family. Proudly, I can say it was worth dropping out of school, because I was able to help my wife obtain her cosmetology license in Salinas Beauty College; besides, I supported my daughter to accomplish her bachelor's degree in California State University of Monterey Bay last year 2017.

Despite of all these economic difficulties, I never renounced my dream to acquire an education; 12 years later, in 2015, I returned to Hartnell College to continue my studies. Thanks to the support of my family, my professors, and my academic counselor at Hartnell College, finally I was able to achieve my certificate in Spanish. During the years as a student at Hartnell College, I was President of the Spanish Club and I had the opportunity to serve in this institution as a tutor of Spanish in the Panther lab (tutoring center for all subjects), to help Spanish students in their language learning. This experience strongly motivated me to continue my education and accomplish my bachelor's degree in Spanish to teach this language professionally; as a result, I transferred to California State University of Monterey Bay.

I chose CSUMB to continue my studies, because it is a guarantee of success for my professional future. The university has a high level of education and international prestige, it has modern facilities and offers many educational resources for the students. In addition, CSUMB greatest virtue is that most professors have doctoral degrees in their specialties; furthermore, it has a great World Language and Culture program which is related to my educational area. The

most relevant educational plan in CSUMB, is the combination between theory in classes with practice in real life throughout several community services offered to the students. These activities allowed me to apply my knowledge acquired in classes to the Salinas Adult School, institution where I accomplished my community service as a Teacher's assistant.

Definitively, my ability to speak a native language, Spanish, and English, will be useful to me in my professional career; not only that, I strongly believe that experiences acquired working in different educational areas, will positively impact my community, and compliment my professional life to attain my interest for someday return to Hartnell College and work as a Spanish professor. Finally, as a fundamental part of the human being, "Learn and Teach", I strive to motivate others to stay in school, continue their education, and work hard to achieve their dreams. Because I believe if, I can do it at age 58, everybody can also do it.