

Q1: Hello. Please introduce yourself and tell me a bit about your origins, the country you left behind and where it all started.

A1: Hello. My name is Estefany Perez. I was born in Peru in 1992. I believe that my greatest experience in life begun in the University stage, where many job opportunities opened for me. I was at study at University of Central (in my) Country. I was a studying Animal Science; it's like animal production here. It's a good history. Interesting career.

Q2: Based on your biography, I can say you were very passionate about your job in Missouri. How was that experience for you?

A2: Yes, I was very passionate about my work in Missouri since it was the first time that I work outside my country, and in an industry of that magnitude, my experience there was very great and I learned a lot, in such a short time. Also I meet friendly people who they helped a lot of in the world of my knowledge.

Q3: You say "I came to the United States with a suitcase full of dreams and projects." I found that very poetic and very inspiring. If you were to reach out for that suitcase today, what story would it tell?

A3: Wow, it's a poetic question as well. If I will look for this suitcase and it could tell a serious history of never giving up in the face of any difficulty, right? Since I arrived in this country everything was different to my country but each barrier that I had, I tore it down with my desire to get ahead for more heavy that sometimes was the day ends happy because it was one more step to achieve my goals.

Q4: I get the feeling that you are a very dedicated mother, wife, daughter, granddaughter, based on what I read from your short biography. How much do you think your values as a person, as a mom to a young baby girl, were shaped by your relationship with the great women who raised you; your mom, your grandmother?

A4: My grandmother... and my grandmother and mother teach me and tell me that woman can achieve everything in life.

And I always had that in my head right now and every time. I highly value everything they taught and more the freedom to choose, for example: when I choose to come to the USA, and I know it was difficult for they but still respect my decision and that made me value them more. I'm not the perfect mother or wife but I try to be better every day.

I think that she'll be the idea of every human behind to overcome each day. Even if it is a little bit.

Q5: How much of what you expected of your new life in the United States has been met by the reality you encountered?

A5: Wow, USA is a country that offers...offers many opportunities than perhaps our country - for example, in my case, Peru- of origin, do not.

But it also costs a lot of, it is not easy. Since I arrived in this country every day, a new challenge, is presented to me from the language to food; so different! Thank God,. I meet very beautiful people in this country who were the emotional support for me, that every person should have to fulfill their goals.

I'm progressin little by little. And if until today, I am fulfilling my goals little by little and I hope to continue like this.

Q6: I'm so happy for you. Do you think immigration in United States is important, and how do very hard working people such as yourself, contribute so much to this society?

A6: Um, talking about the immigration is a very complicated subject right now and the case political. For example, I often understand the position of some Americans, especially Republicans, Trump, Donald Trump, supporters. Since, for example, when I was laboring in Missouri, I feel more discrimination in comparison than in New Jersey. Since sometime is difficult for them to understand that immigration didn't come to contribute in this country with our work and from the simple jobs to the complicated ones. Since, many immigrants are here to idea of freedom and union, that makes the US is a warm country to life. As long as immigrants come to contribute in a positive way to this country, they should be welcome, but if they don't it in a negative, way. I think it is not fair for the Americans themselves, either.

Q7: Right. Tell me, what are some of the most challenging aspects of a newly arrived immigrant such as yourself, such as yourself may experience in the United States?

A7: Hmm, some of difficulties were the language. But thanks to the Middlesex College, I am overcoming the... the day by day. Otherwise it is only a matter of being persistent.

Q8: What are some of the difficulties that persists as time goes by? How does that affect you as a mom to a baby girl, as a wife, student of ESL at Middlesex College, and a resident of Middlesex County?

A8: For me, the biggest difficulty now, as a mother of a family is to become completely financially independent. Since for now, I study and take care of my daughter, but my plans are to finish studying the ESL program and continue with my studies and a master degree.

Q9: Wow, that's very impressive. If you had the opportunity to respond to some of the negative anti-immigration rhetoric coming from some segments of the society, what would you say to them?

A9: I will respond that immigrants but here and in the rest of the world, are here to contribute to the country that welcomes us, I think with responsibility and duties that in my case, this country demands.

Q10: Looking toward the future, what do you think it holds for you, for your daughter, for your family?

A10: Mmm, every day. I always want to be positive with my future. I see myself professionally fulfilled in this country and helping my husband and daughter to move forward with our family contributing to this country, that got me the opportunities that I wanted so much. I love USA and I thank you so much.

Interviewer: Thank you. I really appreciate you taking the time for this interview. This was a great interview and opportunity to meet you.