

Maria Vigil

There were many obstacles facing me when I started college. I can say looking back that all of these obstacles I could put into a huge box entitled: FEAR. I was an older woman returning to school and a 1st generation college student in a family with no role models. I had to deal with not only being a Hispanic woman but also deal with the language barrier since English was not my 1rst language. I had not financial resources, remembering times when I had to sell some of my furniture just to make ends meet that week. But the most significant barrier was my lack of self-esteem. I decided I needed to face my fears and get started.

The support I received from the Women's Center has been instrumental in allowing me to continue my education. I truly believe that I could not have made it this far with out it. I feel I have overcome every obstacle and doing so has served to make me stronger. I am not the same person I was when I started college. I am taking charge of my future! I am becoming a role model to others. I am working on showing my family that women like me have a lot to offer our community and our world. I have the confidence to look for and take advantage of the opportunities out there. I look forward to one day getting paid for what I love doing the most: TEACHING! I am excited to say that I have graduated from SAC and transferred to UTSA. I don't think anyone can convince me that there is anything I can't do. If someone else did it, then, I can do it, too. If no one else has done it, then, I guess I'll be the 1st!

