Alyssa Nunez

1. Describe an example of your leadership experience in which you have positively influenced others, helped resolve disputes, or contributed to group efforts over time.

In 2015, I had the opportunity to coach a softball team for a younger age division. I didn’t know much about coaching, but I knew a lot about the sport. I was thrilled to be able to have the opportunity to teach younger girls how to play softball. I remember being in their footsteps at only the age of 5 already learning the sport. I wanted to be able to teach them how to be competitive, but have fun at the same time. The younger girls ended up teaching me, more than I taught them. They taught me that being a coach was a huge responsibility.

5. Describe the most significant challenge you have faced and the steps you have taken to overcome this challenge. How has this challenge affected your academic achievement?

Ely Ezekiel is the youngest of five children. He is one of the greatest blessings of all time. At the beginning, it wasn't all happiness and smile when my siblings found out my mother was pregnant again. He was born on April 10, 2012.Just like my siblings I began to feel anxious and mad but happy at the same time because I knew no matter what was going to happen, I was going to love this child. Ely Ezekiel Villarreal, my younger brother. It was weird not being the baby anymore. I remember the first time I carried my younger brother, I felt this sense of relief in a way. I felt like all of the broken pieces were picked up again, he made me feel whole inside. My younger brother has been the reason I wake up every morning and do the very best in all that I do. Sometimes things in life can really suck. And people make mistakes you can never take back. Although I would love for my family to be reunited sometime again, you just have to look at the positive outcome. If this situation never would've happen I would've never had by baby brother that I love to death. Ely Ezekiel is going to grow up one day and be something great I just know it when I see that smile on face. He is one of my greatest motivations and I hope when he gets older he knows that I will always love him. My brother has influenced me, and even though he doesn't know it, he encourages me to do my very best in everything. I try to show him in every way possible, that an education can take him to places he doesn't even know about yet.

6. Describe your favorite academic subject and explain how it has influenced you.

My favorite subject that I have been learning since I was in kindergarten has to be Spanish. I have been learning the language since I could speak. Spanish has encouraged me to go out of my comfort zone and communicate with people I've never met even people I've known my whole life. I believe that knowing more than one language can set me apart from many people and help me out a lot in the future. I have used the language to connect with my roots, learning a lot about my Mexican culture. Knowing Spanish has given me a better opportunity in communicating with my grandparents. I had learned the language because when I was in elementary school, I was place in a dual immersion program. This program gave me an opportunity to help me learn and accomplish content in both English and Spanish. Because of Spanish, I feel that I'd can go to many different countries and continents that speak Spanish and I'd be able to communicate easily with people from those areas. All of the teachers that have helped me learn the language all encouraged me to improve my learning skills. After learning the language, I am now able to read, write, speak and understand the language. I have been able to develop confidence and feel more independent in all choices that I make for myself. Spanish has helped me become more open-minded and look at life in a different view point. Knowing the language and understanding where others and I come from is a very eye-opening experience. With Spanish I have been able to meet new people and make lifelong friendships. ​

8. What is the one thing that you think sets you apart from other candidates applying to the University of California?

One attribute that I have that sets me apart from other candidates applying to the University of California is my dedication. Ever since I was younger, the two biggest supporters in my life that helped me conquer all that I have and who have reminded me of how important I am, are my parents. My parents always preached over and over that I can do whatever I set my mind too. I have used that saying to guide my actions and use it as motivation. One thing that I believe separates me, is my positive attitude. In every situation that I have been in, I have looked at the positive viewpoint and all the positive outcomes that can come out of a specific situation. I always tell myself, if I focus on the negatives I’m not going to accomplish anything.