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Interview no. 1711

Beatriz Villegas

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THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO INSTITUTE OF ORAL HISTORY

Interviewee: Beatriz Villegas

Interviewer: Yolanda Leyva

Project: Latina Leaders El Paso

Location: El Paso, Texas

Date of Interview: July 17, 2016

Terms of Use: Unrestricted

Transcript No.: 1711

Transcriber: Andrea Santos

Summary of Interview:

Beatriz was born in Torreon Coahuila, Mexico. She arrived to El Paso when she was 25 years old because she got married, but she used to visit El Paso frequently because she lived in Juarez with her family. Her step dad made the family moved to Juarez because he thought that it was cheaper living there.

Beatriz has always considered herself a Mexican woman, but she knew that in reality she was an American citizen. Through out the years she has work as a community activist and spiritual activist when Beatriz was asked about her being a leader she mentioned that she doesn't feel as if she is a leader, she just feels as a responsible for other people. She believes that leadership is part of her Mexican culture, but when Latinos hear the work leader they think as someone who is the boss, but she thinks of the word leader as a responsibility.

Through out her years Beatriz motivated other people with the phrase you can do it. Beatriz believes tat if you believe in yourself and believe that you can do anything you will be capable of achieving all of your goals. Beatriz once had an experience while she was teaching at EPCC where a student went to ask her for help in math in which she knew nothing about, but she still tried to help him and she gave him confident in himself that he would be capable of having a good grade in his math class.

Beatriz believes that your income level sometimes determined the way you talk and express yourself, she firmly believes that low income families are better at communicating with others because of all the hard things they lived and have to face.

Overall Beatriz believes she is a strong woman who fights for others and is responsible and not a leader who aspired to inspire others and teach what is right and fights for what is right. She

believes that her background and all her experiences made her who she is today and when she became older she started to open her eyes and became more aware of the world.

Length of interview 24:58

Length of Transcript N/A