

The youngest son of a Mexican immigrant family, my name is Giovanni Rodriguez. My mother had me 11 years apart from the 3rd sibling, my sister. My childhood was filled with laughter and struggles, as my family faced financial endeavors as a result of the 2008 Economic Recession and now the pandemic. Throughout my high school career I have been involved in Hispanic Student Union as President, AVID as Vice President, Future Farmers of America as Secretary, The San Marcos Promise Ambassador, and an AP Ambassador. As a student leader I have sought to contribute to my community through different ventures that allow students the opportunity to know more about themselves and life after high school.

Growing up Spanish was my first language, as it was the language my parents spoke. I struggled with English all throughout grade school, but drastically improved as I became engulfed with East Asian subtitled animation. Learning about intricate and fascinating cultures that seem not only interesting and challenging to comprehend but vividly rich in beauty. East Asia has a plethora of nuances, a different perspective. This activity slowly started to spark an interest in me. In fact, this has led me to choosing International or Global Studies (depending on the college) as my major for undergraduate and my future prospects in applying to the Schwarzman Scholars Program. A one year fully funded program for a masters degree at Tsinghua University in Beijing, which is intended to provide the needs for future leaders to understand specifically China and her impact on the world stage. At the end of higher education, I most definitely see myself working as an individual who represents the United States of America abroad, particularly in East Asia. Working as a Foreign Service Officer has been an ideal pathway because this career allows me to interact with and learn more about East Asian countries while still providing with the ability to maintain and foster peace relationships with the U.S.. This career means to me to be a comprehensive individual, who will contribute one thing bigger than themselves.