

I, Casey Spahn, interviewed Julio Cesar Flores-Gonzales (Sr), Sherrie Flores, Adrian Enrique Flores-Cohrs, and Julio Cesar Flores-Cohrs (Jr). Julio Sr. grew up in Mexico and along with many other Mexican's residing there, his family was very poor and he did not get the opportunity to get any formal schooling. He moved to the United States about 15 years ago in order to obtain a better life. He is now working for a landscaping company and trying to improve his English. His wife, Sherrie, has always lived in the United States, and learned Spanish as her second language. She works as a travel agent and has received a college education. There two sons, Adrian 11, and Julio Jr. 9, have grown up in the States and have the advantages of knowing both English and Spanish. Julio Jr. is enrolled in the dual-language program, while Adrian, does not get that option. Together, the Flores family does Olympic Tae Kwon Do and although Julio Sr. does not practice himself, he always comes and shows his support.

Interview #1

Adrian

Casey: How do you feel about having both languages being spoken in your house?

Adrian: Well sometimes its confusing, some of the stuff my father says, and sometimes its good cuz its another language and its helps you have more advantages in school.

Casey: How do you feel about having both languages being spoken in your house?

Adrian: Well sometimes its confusing, some of the stuff my father says, and sometimes its good cuz its another language and its helps you have more advantages in school.

Casey: Which language do you prefer?

Adrian: English

Casey: How come?

Adrian: Spanish is more complicated and I just don't like to speak it that much cuz I just don't like it.

Casey: Which language did you learn first?

Adrian: English

Casey: How did you learn Spanish?

Adrian: I learned it from my dad cuz he kept speaking it when I was little

Casey: Did you think it was difficult, or not?

Adrian: Some of the stuff I picked up real quick and some took a long time.

Casey: How do you do in school?

Adrian: Uhh...

Casey: Honestly...

Adrian: Yeah I do okay

Casey: Do you get any programs in school that you think help you out?

Adrian: Well next year I am going to get this one class where I can ask to get Spanish classes and learn Spanish and stuff

Casey: Have you ever had any ESL classes or anything?

Adrian: No

Casey: Because English was your first language?

Adrian: Yeah

Casey: Do you know anything about the bi-lingual programs?

Adrian: Uhh yes cuz my little brother is in it and he has it. I know he switches like every three

weeks. He switches classes from English to Spanish.

Casey: What do you think about those programs?

Adrian: I think they are good because they help kids learn both languages and helps them with their homework and to do other stuff. Makes them more ready for the world. It gives them more opportunities for a better life.

Casey: If you had the chance would you want to be in the bi-lingual program?

Adrian: Yes I would

Casey: Do you think there are any language barriers between you and any other person?

Adrian: Yes

Casey: Like what?

Adrian: Like I don't speak a lot of Spanish, so when they talk in Spanish I don't really understand, at least I couldn't speak back to them.

Casey: Do you have a diverse group of friends?

Adrian:

Casey: At home, do you mainly speak in English?

Adrian: yeah

Casey: Do you feel that your school is very segregated?

Adrian: I don't know what that means

Casey: Do you think people at your school all hang out together, as opposed to people only hanging out with ones who speak their language?

Adrian: No

Casey: Does everyone hang out together?

Adrian: Yeah cuz like me and my friend, I hang out with them and they are Spanish and Mexican. And I hang out with them, they are my best friends.

Casey: Do you think that no matter what language they speak, everyone hangs out together?

Adriene: Yeah

Casey: Is there anything else you want to talk about?

Adrian: No

Casey: This is our research question:

Casey: Do you think Hispanic students get the help that they need?

Adrian: yes I do,

Casey: How so?

Adrian: They get help from the teachers, and sometimes since they have spanish speaking parents, they can help them and if they need help they can get it from their teachers.

Casey: So do you think teachers make an effort to help Hispanic students?

Adrian: yes

Casey: Do you think you have the same oppourtunties as everyone else?

Adrian: yeah

Casey: Thank you

Interview #2

Julio Jr.

Casey: How did you first learn to speak Spanish and English?

Jr.: When I went to kindergarten. They had a bi-lingual program, so once my mom signed me up,

and I just started from there.

Casey: Did you know Spanish before that?

Jr: No

Casey: Do you like your bi-lingual program?

Jr: Yes and no

Casey: Why?

Jr: Because I get more homework! Spanish and English.

Casey: What do you like about it?

Jr: Well I like that I can hang out with a lot of cool people, that speak different languages, they all can help me and so that way I can learn and I can speak it here if I need too.

Casey: Do you think its easy or difficult?

Jr: Easy, easier then for my brother because I have learned from when I was in kindergarten

Casey: So its easier for you to learn it then for him because you have the classes?

Jr: yeah

Casey: Are there any other programs you have had in school?

Jr: no

Casey: No ESL or anything like that?

Jr: No

Casey: What would you change about the bilingual program? Anything?

Jr: No

Casey: Can you explain the bilingual program?

Jr: It's a group of English people and a group of Spanish people, and they mix them up together, and they put them into two separate groups, English and Spanish, and one side will be with my teacher, and so one will do English and other Spanish, and every three weeks we switch, so we get the same learning.

Casey: You learn one thing with a teacher and then the next 3 weeks you switch?

Jr: yep

Casey: Do you think that knowing both languages will help you in your future?

Jr: yeah because if I am a doctor or something, and there is a Spanish person, I will come in very handy.

Casey: Do you think you get the same opportunities and benefits as everyone else in school or are you treated differently?

Jr: the same

Casey: Do you have a lot of different kinds of people at your school?

Jr: yes

Casey: Do you think everyone gets along, or are they separate?

Jr: Everyone gets along

Casey: In class, do your teachers ask you to help other students?

Jr: yes

Casey: What do you think about that?

Jr: Its kinda easy, cuz I just have to translate it for them, and they all get it right away

Casey: Do you like to help or not?

Jr: I like too

Casey: How do you do in school?

Jr: I do better then my brother

Casey: Do you feel any different for being half Hispanic?

Jr: Yes, because when I speak Spanish, I have a different accent

Casey: Are there any language barriers that have affected you?

Casey: Here is the question. Do you think Hispanic students are being helped in school?

Jr: yes because they learn in English and they learn in Spanish.

Jr: No

Casey: You haven't done any other programs right?

Jr: No

Casey: So you think they really are helping, and do you think there is anything they can do to improve?

Jr: No

Casey: Do you have anything else?

Jr: No

Casey: Okay thank you

Interview #3

Sherrie Flores

Casey: How involved do you feel in your child's schooling?

Sherrie: I am really involved with their schooling. I go to field trips with them, I do in class projects with them, I have done whatever I can with them since they started kindergarten.

Casey: What's your families educational background?

Sherrie: Me being which part of the family?

Casey: Like how high did you and your close relatives pursue?

Sherrie: My oldest brother is a computer programer, so he has completed all kinds of college and things. I have completed college, my older sisters have completed college, younger brother is a retired police officer, so we have a variety of different degrees in my side of the family.

Casey: Do you think your background helps your children?

Sherrie: It does because I am more involved in their education then someone who is not used to making them study would be, because I follow up on making sure they do their homework, and I check their papers and make sure they turn things in which doesn't happen all the time.

Casey: Do you think many parents are that involved or just a few?

Sherrie: Well not all parents have the time to do it, and not all of them have the energy or the resources to do it. Some of them when they get home from work if your tired from working, and you gotta cook dinner and do things, and you have asked the kids of they have done their homework and they say yeah, then you are good. So not all parents will follow up on it. Then some are really good about it.

Casey: Is there anything the district can do to increase parent involvement?

Sherrie: Just follow up on assignments, and alert the parents if they see that the children are not turning in the work that is needed to be done. Let the parents know before it gets out of hand.

Casey: Do you think parents and staff help the parents who don't speak English? Do they make an effort to get those parents involved as well?

Sherrie: Well they are doing that more and more recently then they did before, because before they didn't have people that spoke multiple languages in the school district. They had to just rely on the kids to translate and now they actually have teachers and educators who are multi-lingual.

They translate and that helps to do the paper work which is a better understanding for the parents

Casey: Do you parents get letters sent home in English and Spanish?

Sherrie: Yes

Casey: How did you learn Spanish?

Sherrie: I actual spent some time in El Paso, and I took Spanish in school as part of the curriculum . So I took the basics, you know like count to 10, that kind of thing, colors, numbers the basic kinds of things. I took some classes at PCC for Spanish. Then, it mostly comes from usage. A lot of the Spanish they teach is proper, and a lot of the language that the general public speaks, is got a lot of slang, that they don't even teach you in the classes. They discourage you to use. A lot of it is being with people who speak the language and like TV, radio, things like that where you actually hear it spoken on a regular basis.

Casey: Do you think your children are being taught slang? Or are they being taught proper also?

Sherrie: I think they are being taught both, because their father is Mexican and so he obviously speaks the Spanish that is the general Spanish that everybody speaks, and his friends and acquaintances speak what's called familiar Spanish, rather than the formal Spanish, and then in school, since Julio Or.) is taking the bilingual classes, he is also getting the formal education as far as the correct pronunciation or the correct wording and so he is getting the benefit of both sides. Casey: How long did it take you to be, what you consider fluent in Spanish?

Sherrie: Uhh I dunno, a couple years at least, maybe three years

Casey: You said the bilingual program, are there any other programs your children have been in?

Sherrie: As far as helping them to learn Spanish?

Casey: Yeah anything that has to do with helping them because they are Hispanic

Sherrie: Well my other one, they didn't even offer the bilingual program at the time he started school so they only started it when Julio started. He got it the first year he started, in kindergarten. They didn't offer it when Adriene started school, or he would have been in it as well.

Casey: Can you explain the bilingual program?

Sherrie: Bilingual program means that Julio gets homework in English and Spanish, he spends time in both languages, he learns in math, social studies, science, and spelling, he has for both languages. Each week he has like 10 English spelling words and 10 Spanish spelling words. His math homework, usually rotates like 3 weeks is in Spanish and 3 weeks in English. So he will have all his papers in Spanish only, his corrections, everything he has to do on his paper work is in Spanish, his English paper is the same. It's different work, but that way he learns from each one. Casey: Do you think **it works?**

Sherrie: **It does! He knows things that I didn't even know.** They teach him general things like when they were teaching about the stars, and specifics, I knew the basics but because they got into insects and animals and things, I didn't really get into insects, so he knows names of things that I never even thought to look into.

Casey: Do you see any cultural barriers for them?

Sherrie: In what way?

Casey: Do you see anything that makes them be treated differently? Or do you think they are treated equally?

Sherrie: Umm, it depends on where they are at. When they are here, its kinda generally accepted in America and the school they are in, because there are a lot of inner-related and inner-racial families here, its pretty normal to see here, but in Mexico, there are barriers there. People look at them, and know they speak English so they treat them differently, they are treated like

Americans. Here they are Americans in America, so they are treated the same way.

Casey: Do you think higher education is important for them?

Sherrie: Yes, I am pushing for that.

Casey: You said your kids get the same opportunities as everyone else correct?

Sherrie: Yes, they get the same opportunities as any other child in the school, they get a special reading if they need additional help with reading, they just had 3rd grade benchmarks, and every student has to do the benchmark and regardless if they speak English, Spanish or Chinese. They all have to take the same test.

Casey: Do you think that has to do with staff? Or just the program itself? Or both?

Sherrie: The program has been very beneficial because it actually gives them a head start on learning languages and its easier to learn when you are younger, and it also gives them a better grasp of a lot of different subjects and it gives them a lot of help with it. So when they get older, they don't get as much help, the language is one class that they have for an hour, a day so they don't spend as much time on it. Its harder for them to pick up as much, as they do, and when the _ are younger, teaches usually spend more time with them, and don't expect them to know as much as older students that's learning, because by the time you reach a certain age they expect you to do your own homework, and to know things, when you are younger, teachers spend more time with you because they realize that you have a shorter attention span and you ask more questions, and you may need more assistance and more help during that time.

Casey: Question Do you feel Hispanic students are being helped?

Sherrie: They have come a long way in helping them, including staff that is multi-lingual and able to answer questions, and especially sending paper work home in both languages, helps parents know whats going on and be able to assist the kids a lot more, then sending English paper work home that the parents don't understand. Which makes it hard for them to even know how their child is doing.

Casey: Are there any other ways that staff helps parents get involved?

Sherrie: They have meetings, times they get together, they have places where they can ask questions, and the conferences and things are a big help.

Casey: Do you have anything else?

Sherrie: Nope, that's about it.

Interview #4

Julio Sr

Casey: How long have you lived in the United States?

Julio: about 15yrs

Casey: How did you come to the US?

Julio: On a bus

Casey: Can you talk about your experience coming here?

Julio: I crossed the border, and it was very hard. It was hard because I didn't have any papers. When I first came here, nobody spoke Spanish and it was hard because I didn't speak any English. I couldn't interpret anything. It was very hard I didn't have a job.

Casey: It was hard to get a job? Because of the barriers.

Julio: Yeah, and I didn't have papers, and I didn't speak English.

Casey: Why did you decide to come to the United States?

Julio: I wanted a better benefits, and a better life

Casey: Did you come from Mexico?

Julio: Yes

Casey: What was schooling like in Mexico? Did you go to school in Mexico?

Julio: No....

Casey: Not really? So you don't really know?

Julio: No because all my family was a poor family. They couldnt support me and go to school. We didnt have enough money

Casey: Did you have any brothers or sisters that went to school?

Or did your parents?

Julio: No

Casey: So is it important to you that your kids get a good education?

Julio: Yes, very important for me. I explain the hard times I have to them, because I didn't go to school, and right now it is very hard for me to have a better job. That's what I tell them. Too go to school and learn so they have a better life later.

Casey: What language do you speak at home?

Julio: Spanish

Casey: So that way yours kids learn both?

Julio: Yes,

Casey: What do you think about the programs your kids get at school, like the bilingual program, do you like that?

Julio: Yeah, I like it. He can learn to speak in Spanish and he can help me out more. He can explain more.

Casey: Do you think its important for them to not only be able to speak it, but to learn to read and write it also?

Julio: Yeah, that's very important

_asey: Cuz a lot of people that speak Spanish cant read and write it correct?

Julio: Yeah that's right

Casey: Do you think you get involved in your kids school work? Do people help you to get involved?

Julio: Yeah, I try to help them as much as I can, but sometimes its very hard for me. Sometimes they ask a question I have never heard before, but I help them as much as I can

Casey: Do you think people who work at schools, make an effort, that they try and get you involved, or they don't really care?

Julio: Yeah they try to get me involved, sometimes they call asking questions.

Casey: Do you think there is anything they can do to improve or make it easier for you to get involved?

Julio: yeah, its easier for me when somebody can help me because I cant speak English to much, just a little bit, and its hard to understand a lot of...its hard for me which is why I want my boys to learn Spanish so they can help me out.

Casey: When people and teachers call you to let you know how your kids are doing do they speak Spanish?

Julio: Yeah, they speak in Spanish

Casey: Is that a lot easier?

Julio: Yeah I can understand a lot easier, then when they speak English

Casey: Do you think its important for your kids to get a higher education after high school? To go to college.

Julio: Very important, I want my kids to have better schooling to go to college.

Casey: Do you think your kids are successful in school?

Julio: Yeah they do a good job, sometimes they need a little help. They don't want to do their homework

Casey: Do you think there is anything stopping them, or making it difficult for them to get an education?

Julio: No...

Casey: Do you think because they speak English so well, it is easier for them then for someone who spoke Spanish first?

Julio: Well yeah..its more easier and better for them to speak more English

Casey: Question

Julio: Right now, its very different because not a lot of people can speak Spanish and English. When you go to the stores, people can talk 2 you in Spanish and English. Its a lot different then before.

Casey: Do you think that them learning both languages helps you to learn English better?

Julio: Yes, a little bit, before you go to a place or a store and nobody can introduce you.

Casey: They cant talk 2 you?

Julio: Yeah they cant talk 2 you only say 'hi'

Casey: How did you start to learn English? Just from moving here?

Julio: Yes, I learned it for awhile and went to school for English

Casey: When you got married did you know English?

Julio: Not really, a little bit

Sherrie: We had the ceremony in Spanish and English so there was nooooo doubt later about what he did.

Casey: So did you learn Spanish because you were getting married or you just had learned it previously?

Sherrie: I had some before, but more because we were trying to communicate with each other more. Its hard because there are a lot of cultural differences, being from two different countries. Language differences as well, trying to visit with his family, they speak no English like helping the children with the school work, it forces him to have to translate, from what he knows, he tries to figure the word out in English he can help them. For me it's the opposite. I read and think in English first, and then translates to Spanish. He thinks in Spanish and translates to English, so we have Spanglish in the house. We will have sentences that have both languages in them. Well talk in both languages, but a lot of it came about because being together, you usually use your own first language, to explain things, and if you don't understand the word they are saying, it makes it harder to communicate. So trying to learn that language and be able to communicate with each other is what started it.

Casey: Do you think its common that if there is someone who speaks English and Spanish to have those cultural differences? To change the language in their head?

Sherrie: Its almost automatic. Its what we are taught growing up. When someone speaks to you, you automatically think in the language you were first taught in. It has to become really fluent with the other languages before you can actually just automatically translate it and have the

conversation. There is kind of a gap where you have to have time to think about what they said before you can answer them. So it gets easier the more fluent you become, but in the beginning it just seems like what you were taught first is what you use to explain things and we still do that. When he gets excited or wants to explain something to me, he'll go into Spanish, he immediately breaks into Spanish to tell me things, and I will have to translate it for myself. When I first say things, unless I consciously think about it, I will tell him in English. It's because it's what we are used to. Just culturally there are a lot of differences in how you are raised and what your expectations are and educational differences like going to school and finishing school and I have a college education. So we have a lot of differences as far as I enjoy reading, I read a lot, he doesn't enjoy reading because he didn't do well in school. I push the kids to read, and he doesn't really care if they read. It makes a difference as far as what you grow up with and the direction that you go in.

Casey: Do you think your kids are getting the best of both worlds, because they get to see from your point of view and they also get to see from someone else's point of view that experienced something different? Do you think that helps them too?

Sherrie: They get a lot of differences, they get to see how they benefit here and being an American, getting the education that they get. When they go to Mexico they see the lack of...just things we take for granted...being that they live out on a farm, that they live out of town, there is no running water in the house, there is no stove in the house, they have a propane stove. They don't have piped in things so it depends on where you live in Mexico just like it depends on where you live in the United States what kind of amenities you have and you are used to. It makes a big difference for them, as far as what they are taught. They are teaching English in the schools in Mexico. Some of their cousins are learning English, but they are not as comfortable speaking English as the boys are speaking Spanish. Because they are taught in school but don't practice it there, it's harder for them to learn and use English than it is for the kids who are actually taught to use it, made to speak it, and learn to read and write as well as speak and hear. It should help them as they get older because it becomes a very big difference in the area around, in Hillsboro, there are a lot of Hispanic people. There is a lot of restaurants, and their culture, and business that are going to be interrelated and speak both languages. If you have the skills to read, write, and speak the language, it will help you in business as well as in your personal life. It's a great advantage to have. Teaching them while they are young, gives them an opportunity to learn another language, Japanese or something when they get up into high school. They will already have two languages down. It's gonna help them to learn and get them to fit in more easily.

Casey: When you started learning Spanish, you said you took classes where they taught you the simple things like colors and stuff, in our high school experience, I took Spanish 1 and Spanish 2, and I really can't speak much if any Spanish although I passed the classes. Do you think the bilingual program really helps them actually learn the program unlike the Spanish classes people take?

Sherrie: In the Spanish classes that you take, after you pass the class do you ever use it again?

Casey: No not really, you try but you can't.

Sherrie: Unless you actually speak the language, and continue to use the language, a lot of it you don't retain. I took Spanish in elementary school as a child, but I didn't keep speaking Spanish because we moved from El Paso, where we were. Where we moved to, Spanish was not spoken, English was spoken. If you don't use it, you don't continue to progress with it. By teaching it to them, and having them read and write it, and incorporate it in all their lessons not just this is blue

this green, and the how are you today, 'como esta usted', 'estoy bien', 'mucho gracias', you remember those things because they teach you, but it doesn't get you very far. They are actually teaching them for five or six years. Kindergarten to yh grade, so they will have 6 years of Spanish. They are going to learn everything from their ABC's to their math, and social studies in both languages. So I think they are going to retain more, they are gonna use it more and they are going to be more proficient in it. Then saying hi how are you and where is the bathroom

Casey: The people, do they just teach English and Spanish, or if there is someone of an Asian decent, do they teach English and Spanish or do they teach them English and their language?

Sherrie: There bilingual program in the school right now is only English and Spanish they don't have other bilingual programs in there.

Casey: So do those people learn both or do they just learn English?

Sherrie: Depends on which class they are in, there are some classes that are English only. They do have English as a second language help for people who have another first language, like Asian, or people that came over from..the Arabic countries, like Indian and several different countries that came over during the war, Russian, Ukranian, they do help them get English as a second language, they do get extra help but they don't have a lot of instructors and they don't have an actual program set up yet that actually gives them the reading writing and speaking it. They have to get that from their parents or from television because there are some cable programs that actually give other languages. So even like Korean and other languages, they don't teach that in school until you get to the higher grades where you have specific choices like German, French, and now they have added Japanese to it, which they didnt have when I was in school. They are adding other languages, but it's the short term and if you are not using it constantly you are not going to have the same benefits as using it all the time.

Casey: Do you think they teach Spanish because Spanish seems to be the largest minority? Like people of Asian descents are considered a minority but there is not as many in Hillsboro, do you think that is why they don't teach or because there are not enough people to teach it, in all the schools?

Sherrie: It could be both, I don't think there is as large of a population of other languages that are spoken all the time, there was like an influx of people that came over because of war in their country, but its not been such a steady progression of the same language spoken in any other group. And a lot of other countries like the asiain families and things like that, do the home schooling. There are other ways of teaching their children both languages. So they are pretty strict with family and education and they do a lot of home study, that a lot of Americans don't do a lot of home study because their life styles or the fast lane life styles kinda thing, there are a lot of working parents and single parent families, and they don't have the same time frame and they just expect the school system to do that. As coming from another country, you already know you don't speak the language so you take it a little further with your children to make sure they do. If you are raised in America and grow up in America, you take advantage and just assume your kids are going to go to school and go to high school and they are going to learn what they need to learn from the school system. Its not up to you to teach them, but someone coming into the country, knowing they don't speak the language, the start with the handicap so they push a little to make sure things and learned and done because they have to rely a little more on the system then somebody that speaks the language and has it already.

Casey: Do you think its important for anybody who moves here to learn English to be able to communicate because most people here speak English? A lot of people move here and can live here for 10years and they don't speak a word of English. Do you think its important for them to an effort to learn the language?

Sherrie: Yeah, its gotta be a personal opinion on that, I would think that any country that you go to, if you are going to reside there, work there, and if its gonna be where you raise your children you need to be familiar with the language and the customs and what is expected of you in that country so that you don't get yourself or your family into any kind of problems, wether its financially or legal or anything else by not knowing what is expected of you to be a citizen of that country. Just seems to make sense for you to learn to speak the language and know the customs, so that you wouldn't continue to be an outsider in that country.

Casey: We have been doing a lot of research, and the Hispanic drop out rate it really high, why do you think that is?

Sherrie:...

Casey: Do you think its because of their culture, or do you think its just a coincidence type thing?

Sherrie: Maybe its partly because of their culture, they are used to working young, they are used to getting married younger, they are used to different expectations of their children, or what they have. If they didn't finish school, its not as big of a deal to them if their kids don't finish school, if their kids are getting a job and bringing money in, a lot of families are large families and they need the money more then they need the money at that time. Or if they feel they aren't getting what they need from school they will just drop out and do something else because it is easier then to try to find a way to get the help.

Casey: So do you think its also because, a lot of people that come here, their parents, like you said, don't have a high education so its not important to them, that they don't realize that here it really is. That a lot of people look at it that way. They don't know either that it is really important for their kid because they obviously want the best for their children, but do you think its because they don't encourage schooling because they didn't have it?

Sherrie: They are already making more money here then they were in Mexico. So they feel like they already have a better life, they have made more money that what they would have there. Forcing their kids to stay in school, when they don't want too, and they are already making more money, they already have more opportunities then they had in Mexico.

Casey: They don't really know that they could get even better then what they already have?

Julio: Its better here because you don't have to pay to go to school. In Mexico, you have to pay for everything. You books, and pencils, you need to buy everything. Here it is more easy. In Mexico you need to pay. Here you don't have to pay.

Sherrie: You do have to pay when you get to college.

Julio: Yeah but in Mexico when you start kindergarten you have to pay. For everything you need to use. Life is more hard over there, you don't make too much money. You don't have enough money to pay for that stuff. When you come to this country, it is easier to make more money. You have more benefits here and to be able to send your family to school. Life is easier here. In Mexico, school isn't very important. What's important is you go to work, and bring the money home. Had to help the family.

Sherrie: They were more custom to working and bringing the money home then higher education. Even getting higher education in Mexico limits the kind of jobs you can get. His daughters, he has two older daughters in Mexico, and we payed for them to go to school, and even college, and

Casey: The demand is not that high for things like that?

she is still limited in the jobs she can get. She can make more money, then her cousins who only went to high school, but they still don't make nearly the money they would be able to make here, even though she has a college education.

Sherrie: Pay scale is not that high. The Mexican pay scale is just they don't have a highly paid, even for their academic people. They don't have a high salary. They are a lower wage country. Even with a higher education there, you still make a lower wage. They don't equate it with a high education gives you a higher salary like they do here. Once you get enough to know how to work, and bring home the money, and balance a check book, your in. They are pretty much, they don't go as high up in education, and it may be because they don't have a lot of people with a high education that push for that for them.

Casey: When you came to the US did you know that if you had children they had to be in school? Like in Mexico you don't have to go to school right?

Julio: yeah, here I learned that school is very important. this is what needs to be done before you start working. stay in school and learn.

Casey: You are saying that you realized education is really important here right? A lot of Hispanics that think of it as not because that is their culture in Mexico. Now they say that there are a lot of drop outs because of their culture and how they look at helping the family, they also said there is high pregnancy. Do you think that has to do with culture also?

Sherrie: They do get married younger, they do seem to develop into relationships that are more acceptable younger then it is here. Again, depends on each family. Some families want their children to get a higher education and complete college, and there is others that it is normal for them to have their fourteen year old get married and have a baby, and so they figure it's the same here. They live in a different country but their culture hasn't changed. Its just like any other society, it depends on if they want higher education and how the parents view it and pass it on to their children. What's important to them. Teen pregnancy has been going on since the beginning of time among all kinds of races. They have been saying a lot of Caucasians have been waiting until later in life to have their kids now. They are waiting until they are educated and have their jobs. Something that has just evolved more. In the 50's and 60's even here, the girls dropped out more because their whole goal in life was to catch a husband, and get married, and that was their life. And now, that is not women's main goal anymore. It's a difference in the way the American culture is looking at their lifestyle. There are a lot of options out there for you, and you don't have to be a man to be a breadwinner anymore. Women are more into education. They build their own lives up, but the Hispanics, are behind us in culture. They do not have the same options and opportunities, they haven't stepped up as quickly. They are about 30 years behind us, I would say culturally. because the younger generation that's out now is starting to work away from the homes and get away from the farms, into more areas. Be more independent, but its just this generation that is doing that. For us its been the last two or three generations that have gone to college, moved away from home. They are just a little behind us in culture. It may be with the next generation as this generation grows up and see's what is offered in schools, they may push their kids a little harder to get a better education.

Casey: How do you think Americans see Hispanic culture? Do you think we let them live their culture here or do you think we try and change them? Do you want that?

Sherrie: Its gonna depend on the people, some Hispanic people do cling to a lot of things, like they continue to speak Spanish only, relate to the same foods, the same things they have always done, the same situation, others are more up and coming and taking advantages of it. Others are working the system. For food stamps, having babies and getting onto welfare, for them its they realize its more benefits for them, its an easier life for them, and they don't have to deal with what they thought they had to deal with. It depends on what they are offered. They may push their kid to get a higher education or they may realize that because there are a lot of benefits offered for them and they are a minority, that they don't have to work as hard for. It's a controversial subject. The things that people discuss because some of every culture are hard workers and put an effort into things and look for a better future, some want to ride the system and just do what they have t(do to get by so no matter what they are doing whether it's a American, Korean, or a Mexican, it depends a lot on what they are offered and what they are taught. higher education younger in school, should benefit them because they are learning younger what their options are and how to use the benefits that are given to them and you are showing them some higher expectations. Casey: Anything else?

Shenie & Julio: Nope

Casey: Thank you