

***Puertas Abiertas* Testimonies**  
**Storytelling for Social Justice**

**2008-2019**

**Stock Story**

**2008-2019**

*Responses in which students saw themselves and their Latino culture as inferior due to the story of Whiteness, and its impact.*

There are people who are fighting to change these stereotypical and discriminatory views and to change this world. (2008)

My favorite topic was about civilization and how they try to “civilize” us. This is what interested me most, and that’s the type of information I want to know. Because I know that they don’t like our culture, but I have no idea how they’re trying to do it, or what our schools are teaching. (2008)

Before coming to PALA, I used to just think that because I’m Mexican, I couldn’t do many things. That you only see white people doing but now I realize I can do the same thing as a White or any other. (2008)

In other way these *Puertas Abiertas* helped me is teach me more about my Culture because when I was growing up I never really thought about it. When I was little I didn’t have my parents around just pretty entertaining myself, I really didn’t have my sister around either so I seek independence at a very young age. Sincerely, the one who loved *Puertas Abiertas*. (2013)

Coming to *Puertas Abiertas* Leadership academy has changed my point of view in history. There are sometimes in history that I didn’t know happened and I didn’t know that because in school the teachers don’t teach us those parts every person in *Puertas* told their stories about how when in class the teachers only talk about the history that is in the books and they do not talk about the Latino Culture but only if it has to relate to the American Culture. That made me change my point of view because what else the teachers’ have not told us what the school doesn’t tell us. (2014)

*I also thought that all we can do in this country is work.* (2015)

We talked about more efficient things males can do instead of always pursuing women. (2019)

*I also liked the class that taught us how to have healthy relationships. I liked the advice that the teacher, Patricia, gave us to avoid bad relationships. (2019)*

### **Concealed Story**

**2008-2019**

*Responses in which students expressed appreciation for existing information, although present, never, revealed to students. This occurred through presentations from community members or from students who felt safe to share their stories in class.*

In this program I have learned our ancestors were great and amazing leaders who were taken advantage of. That we are great and unique for our culture for speaking Spanish! (2008)

I also really liked going to the U of O. I noticed there was a lot of Anglo people there and felt so proud of how different we are compared to them, because it means that we still have our culture. I feel like the U of O is something possible and I want to go there after high school. (2008)

I have learned more about other people and different cultures. My favorite topic was what we did the 1<sup>st</sup> week and I liked to watch movies about other countries such as the mariposas movie. I think we should of watched more movies videos about other countries. (2008)

My favorite topic about P.A.L.A. was the class that we had at the beginning of *Puertas*. Because it had to do with us girls and for once you didn't feel left out because they have been threw it. (2008)

When I first came to P.A.L.A is was so excited to meet new people and to learn more about my culture. I was energetic to hear and listen to what people had to say to me. (2008)

I liked the stories they told us, the stories about the dictators and about the wars and how we were there because I got to learn about what happened to our culture and others. I would like P.A.L.A. to have more videos about the different cultures and there past and what they did. (2008)

What I like at *Puertas* when we all get some professors come to talk to us and then taking some time of their school. (2008)

*My favorite topic was to talk about our bodies and our rights because this was very important for me. (2008)*

My favorite topic was about how the Latinos have always been working hard to become someone and the government tries to prevent that by taking many things away that is a necessity. (2008)

When I came to *Puertas*, I was a person that would believe the history the schools told me about my own history. Now that I have gone through PALA, I know they don't tell me the whole truth about it. (2008)

I really loved learning about my culture and other parts of America. I thought it was nice to learn about Affirmative Action-it is something I would like to learn more about. (2008)

*I learned many things about my country and about the countries of other people. (2008)*

*Coming to Puertas Abiertas was something very beautiful for me. I never thought that there were so many Latinos working to improve our community. I liked learning about my own human rights and I also liked learning about the Mayas, Incas and the Aztecs. (2009)*

*I learned many things about my culture as well as other cultures and I am very proud because I am not the only one that learned something. (2009)*

First of all, I want to tell to let you guys know how greatly I appreciate you being here at *Puertas* and teaching us about our culture and our life (college) can be...Que Si Se Puede. Se los agradezgo mucho. Thanks to you I know so much more about my culture. (2009)

I've always known that I want to go to college and that I want to live a happy life. There has never been doubt in my mind about my goals. *Puertas Abiertas* has not changed my thoughts or my life because I feel it will always remain the same and that's a good thing. But, that doesn't mean that *Puertas* hasn't taught me something new. It has made more aware of the possibilities and aware of what I need to change and for that I am grateful. (2009)

I have also learned that there are many opportunities out there for Latinos. It has changed my opinions about life and about the career I want to pursue. (2009)

I know now that my culture is recognized and it is important. (2009)

I enjoy being here and being part of PALA. I learn new things and was very glad. (2009)

I learned a lot and it was very, very fun way and I learned a lot about my culture. (2009)

I had a great time here. I have learned so much these past 4 weeks I don't even know where to start. I've learned about the Mayas and Aztecs, scholarships that I can get, healthy relationships and so much more. (2009)

Throughout the experience, I have learned about myself and even people I don't know exist. I've learned so many things that I feel like my way of being will change. (2009)

It has been a great experience coming to *Puertas*. *Puertas* Abiertas has shown me a lot about my culture and a lot more about opportunities. (2009)

*It was a great inspiration for me to see and to listen to all the stories of Latinos that have careers because that is something that I do not see in my daily life. I am very grateful for all the opportunities that have been given to me, some that I did not know existed before.* (2010)

I had a lot of fun with the students in this program. I liked learning different new things about them. Everyone is kind to each other and everyone is special in their own way. (2010)

These past one and a half weeks I have learned a lot about college. Before this, I didn't have a clue on what college was really about. (2010)

I learned many ways on how to start applying for scholarships and the cost for a higher education. This year, I learned more about college requirements. (2010)

I am glad I made the decision in coming here to *Puertas* because I got to meet new people, learn how to become more successful and learn more about

college and to always pursue my dreams. I had the opportunity to learn about SATs, ACTs and courses that could help me to become a pediatrician. (2010)

It was really fun coming here because I learn new things about careers and how to do an essay. For example, what you should write in an essay and what you should leave out. I learn how to look and apply for scholarships which is really helpful for me because I need scholarships so I can go to college. (2011)

I came to this academy with not much knowledge and I'm leaving with so much more. (2011)

*Puertas Abiertas Summer Academy has helped a lot because I met many people that have had many problems like I have, and now these people are better than ever. Knowing this helps me to go on and to not give up no matter what. It has also helped me to improve my English and my Spanish and to express my feelings. (2011)*

*Puertas Abiertas is a good program for people that are going to go to college or to the university because they taught us how to fill out a scholarship, write an essay, etc. (2011)*

*Puertas Abiertas is a good program because it opens the eye of students. This program has helped me a lot because now I know that there are many ways to go to college. One of the things that surprised me the most is that I didn't know that there were so many people in our community who are willing to help us reach our dream. (2011)*

*Before I Came to Puertas Abiertas, I knew college was there. What I didn't know was how to apply. What I needed, what a college expected. (2011)*

*Throughout the two weeks, I met presenters and new diverse students that have shown me support and encouragement to follow my educational and career goals. I remember walking in the room and feeling comfortable. As I looked around, there were people just like me, same color, maybe not the same race but the same Latin blood pumping to achieve greatness. (2011)*

*Being able to meet new people it was great as well. Learning that there's teens like me that want to make a change in this world. Not just for them, but for our families and friends. Every presenter we had, brought everyone in the class closer, we got to do some activities that made us learn from one another. Being*

able to see how each of us, had something that was pushing us to be a better person and do great at school. (2012)

Also, meeting new people here was the best because their sort of like me in a way. (2012)

Throughout *Puertas Abiertas*, I have learned many valuable things. I learned about many scholarships I could apply for. I also learned about the test you can take to receive credit for the Spanish you already know. (2012)

*...I learned to speak with my classmates and to tell them what I had inside my heart. Now that we have been together for several weeks, I have a great time with my classmates, especially with Corie, who is my pretend cousin. Every person that has talked to us has left a deep mark in me and I love to hear their stories. I have acknowledged that we are all different, but that we have many good goals and that we are going to accomplish them.* (2012)

Throughout *Puertas Abiertas*, I learned a lot about colleges & universities, scholarships and classes. Scholarships must be searched for. I must apply for as many as I can because I might not get everyone. These things I have learned will help me get the education I want and the degree I need. (2012)

*I have learned many things, especially to interact with my classmates and to share many personal things.* (2012)

I have learned a lot in the Rights of Passage Program. Everyday I felt it was like an overload of information but it was good information. I especially remember the scholarship part, because Rita told us a lot about what we didn't know. I feel like there are a lot more opportunities out there over how many scholarships there are. (2012)

*I love this program because it provides lots of information about requirements to go to college and not only that, but they also taught us the importance of being bilingual. I truly loved being part of all the activities. This program provides good orientation and it makes us think what kind of future we want for ourselves. I loved this program a lot and I hope they continue offering it.* (2012)

In *Puertas Abiertas*, I have learned a lot of things not only about College, but about my friends and my culture. Everyone has such a unique and

empowering story. Its really helped me be stronger seeing how strong others are. (2012)

Before *Puertas Abiertas*, I had no experience with college life or the discrimination of Latinos(as). After *Puertas Abiertas*, not only did I learn that I was wrong, but I also learned some important life lessons. (2012)

I don't remember the names, but they sure are great people. I learned a lot about them and what made them become who they are now. Also, people have suffered so much in life and I don't think people see that until you know someone. (2012)

I learned so much about college, but most importantly, I learned even more of who I am. (2012)

In *Puertas Abiertas*, I learned how hard it was to come to America and how many challenges there are to live here. How some people are afraid of immigration deporting them. My parents, my brother and I don't have to be scared of immigration because we are all legal here. Now I see how lucky I am. (2012)

*The students that they assigned us as mentors were very interesting to me, especially when they talked about some parts of their lives. I was able to realize that I am not the only one that has problems and that there are people that have lived worse things than me and that ins spite of this, they have gotten far. I also realized that I am not alone and that there's a lot of help out there and that I can go on. I was also able to learn about opportunities such as grants and school options and this was very important.* (2012)

Through *Puertas Abiertas*, I have learned more about college, the Latino Community, and myself. I have met some wonderful people. (2013)

Someone I really took away from was Erin and Maria, they both spoke in front of everyone so easily. They were both so outgoing and absolutely great. I have taken that from them I don't find it difficult to speak to anyone anymore. (2013)

*Puertas* didn't just teach me about my culture, but teach me also about my future and college. Mrs. Espinoza is such an amazing teacher. I enjoyed

learning about my possibilities in college and how I can get scholarships.  
(2013)

The *Puertas Abiertas* Leadership Academy has been a great experience I have learn muchas cosas (a lot of things) like how not be shy around people and it also help on my listening skills because when someone is talking to have to be respectful and listen to the classmates and also listen to the speakers that Jim brought in. (2013)

In this program I also learn a lot about my culture I learned things that I didn't know I also learn a lot about myself I'm so glad I came to this program it has been a great experience that I will not forget, so I really want to thank Jim and Mrs. Espinoza for taking their time to do this program and I hope they keep doing it so they can help other students that are trying to learn more about college and their culture. So, thank you so much for this opportunity. (2013)

They teach you how look and search for scholarships which is very important and helpful information for the future. (2013)

At the Long House, the conversations we had as a group were very deep and personal to us. The oppression we all felt every day or at some point in our lives, is the root of our similarities, as a whole, and, that each of us is Latino and proud. It was nice to know that I wasn't the only one who felt upset about white privilege. It was also nice to know that I was respected and that my opinion was heard in the group. (2013)

When I first came to *Puertas Abiertas*, I didn't know what to expect. I didn't know how to sign up for a scholarship or how hard it really was to write an essay. (2014)

Thank you for letting me be here and teaching the information I know how of my culture and the stories people have told us. (2014)

Coming to this program was a great experience because it taught me a lot of great things! I got taught more about my history /culture. Also how to apply for college and how to write scholarships essays! Which would help me in the future, because I really want to go to college! I think those are very useful information for the future! (2014)



I am so thankful for those people and the personal of this program for teaching me all these things. (2014)

I have learned so much about our culture and heritage, not only that we learned about each other and formed a connection a sense of community. We learned all about scholarships and how to write essays and resume. (2014)

I learned how to apply for scholarships, how to get into college, I learned about different careers that I could possibly be going to college for later-on in life. I am grateful to have learned about everyone in this class. (2014)

*This year, as in previous years, the students, mentors and staff have become a family... the Puertas Abiertas Pasos al Futuro family of 2015. The reason why I feel so happy is because each person that has participated in the PALA/Pasos al Futuro program has learned to recognize who he/she is as a Latin@/Hispanic and how we have all helped each other. (2015)*

*This has been a great program because I have learned more about my culture as well as other cultures. I also learned about what we can do as Latinos to get ahead, but I learned that we have to stick together because if we do so, we can do many wonderful things. (2015)*

*Before I came to this program, I did not know about all the people that have had difficult times, just like me. Today was the day in which I have felt the most connected to my classmates. Listening to their stories and to everything that they have been through has freed me to also tell my story. Realizing that we all have things in common has made us get closer to each other. (2015)*

*I liked all the different activities we did and I also liked that they talked about who we really are as Latinos and this has made me reflect a lot because I did not know anything about what it meant to be Latino. All the experiences I have had in Puertas are going to be very helpful for my future and also for my education. (2015)*

*I never knew I would meet people like me that have gone through some similar things I've been through. Never thought of or see myself as a leader. (2015)*

During the duration, I learned many things about each of them and their struggles they've been through and it was really interesting. (2015)

I have made amazing friends and the teachers here are bomb as fudge. This class has taught me so much not just of stuff about me, but about myself in general. I am great and I will become greater. (2015)

*This was my first time in Puertas Abiertas. I have been very impressed through this wonderful experience in which I have learned many things that I did not know before. I also learned about the opportunities that the City of Springfield offers to those that wish to work. I was able to share many things with different classmates from different cultures and countries. (2016)*

*The Puertas Abiertas group has been a big blessing for me because it has helped me learn a lot about other people, about myself and about my rights as a Latina woman. (2016)*

Many of these students are going through hardships that I have gone through or am going through right now and having a close-knit group of people to talk to really helps me personally in overcoming hardships. (2016)

*This program has given us an opportunity to know what is like to be an adult and an excellent college student. It also allowed us to meet new people and to make new friends and to know that we, Latinos, are good people. (2016)*

The benefits I received from this program were that I got to learn more about my culture and got to learn more about myself and my peers. (2016)

I had the opportunity to write a proper resume, learn how to keep a proper budget and write scholarship essays. (2017)

It was very helpful with information of schools and opened my eyes. I wasn't alone when it came to colleges and how it helps you and how to get started. I recommend this place, fun activities and you meet new people. (2017)

Some of us were shy, not willing to share out our thoughts, ideas, opinions, and feelings, throughout our time together we helped each other build up courage and confidence, enough to be at graduation night with a speech from everyone. (2017)

Throughout classes, I learned new things that I normally wouldn't in class at high school such as learning how to read a check and what net and gross were. I meet new amazing people. (2017)

*In this program, I learned about college, lots of important things that will help me during the course of my life, I learned a lot about other people's cultures, this was beautiful. (2017)*

There are many other things this program taught me. They were how to manage money, the division between bi-culture and importantly the proper way to go to college. (2018)

I learned that there are people that either have similarities with my story or their story is harder than mine, and that motivates me to be a better person. (2018)

*In Puertas Abiertas, I was able to learn more about my culture and I felt I had a place in which I felt comfortable to talk about the problems that Latinos experience. (2018)*

*Puertas Abiertas* has helped me understand how college works. I'm glad we learned how to write specific topics and how to only put the most important info on it. I loved the volunteer work we did. I never imagined myself doing that. I learned so much and it was a cool experience. (2018)

I really think everyone here is so amazing and strong. I just really felt touched that all of us talk to one another and open our hearts to be our friends. (2018)

I learned about opportunities that come with education and how to prepare myself for the future, something we never talk about at school, at least not from my Chicana point of view. (2018)

The staff let us open our hearts to them and made the setting comfortable enough for us to do so properly. Sometimes we close our doors to others in fear of being vulnerable and letting our guard down but *Puertas Abiertas* helped us open up and let us trust each other. I've learned within the program that we aren't much without the people that confide in us and support us. (2018)

This program helped me meet so many kind people who shared the same experiences as me. At the end, it felt like a new family was made with people who had known each other for years. (2018)

In *Puertas Abiertas* I have learned so many things that I haven't learned before. One of my favorite parts of *Puertas Abiertas* was talking about scholarships like how to apply for four years of college. (2019)

*I also loved learning how to be better at managing my finances and what to do to make money last longer.* (2019)

*The classes that we took were very informational and I am glad to have been able to learn those things, especially because many of these things are not taught in school.* (2019)

Not only did this program teach me things I didn't know, like the fact that there are many resources to help get you into college, but the program also gave me a wonderful experience and super fun field trips. (2019)

*I have been given tons of opportunities here and I cannot even begin to tell you how grateful I truly am.* (2019)

The classes that were given to us were really helpful such as knowing about credit, resume writing. It's something everyone needs to know to better their future. (2019)

Everyday there was a new lesson to be learned, and the things we learned about are things that wouldn't be fully explained or even mentioned in high school curriculum. Especially when we had the conversation about safe sex as well as talking about all the different kinds of birth control women are exposed to.

*We had many classes from which I learned many things, some of them were new to me and others provided more information on a topic. We were also able to talk about many new topics that were new to us, we created and saved many files.* (2019)

*I also loved the scholarship class and learning about the type of essays that I have to write to apply for a scholarship as well as the financial education class. I learned many good things in this program and now I know who to go to if I need information in the future.* (2019)

*I also liked learning how to write a résumé, how to apply for scholarships and how to organize my finances.* (2019)

*I learned many things about making a résumé and how to apply for a job. The class taught by the NEDCO instructors was very interesting because I learned a lot about saving money and it was very helpful. (2019)*

*However, the financial lecture on credit and savings was sooo useful because we don't get to learn this in school and I'm so grateful to have gotten a free membership. The résumé and scholarship writing were very, very resourceful and great information. (2019)*

## **Resistance Story**

**2008-2019**

*Responses in which students felt empowerment to actions/changes to attitudes based on the stories shared by others who have successfully navigated a bicultural existence in predominately White spaces.*

That we should speak up when we are put down! We should take back what is rightfully our ancestors! I liked this whole program because it showed me that there are really many people who are fighting for our people. (2008)

*My favorite topics during P.A.L.A. were the ones about immigrant rights and those covered during the second and third week because they were a lot of fun. (2008)*

I think that we should have a talent show next year and invite all the cultures that are here that are here at L.C.C. To show them what all the Latinos can do. Show them what we do our culture. Like sing a dance, a play ect. Something that the other groups can see what we do and we see what they do in their culture. (2008)

I have learned to people can't tell me what to do and what not to do. My favorite topic was racism and politics, they interest me so much. (2008)

The things I like were when the professors came and talked about where they came from and what they had to face and accomplish to reach their goal. Also I liked the videos they showed us about what happed to the people from different lands and how they spoke up in their own way. (2008)

And I like the videos that they showed us. (2008)

Something that I learned at PALA is that Latinos also have rights as much as any other person does. (2008)

The professor from the University of Oregon inspired me a lot by the way he said to question everything they tell us about history. He taught me/gave me information that I never knew about my culture and history. (2008)

Another speaker that motivated me and inspired me...we are beautiful, no matter what the media says or anyone else says and that we should love ourselves the way we are and look. (2008)

He (the presenter) made me want to be somebody, that people would look up to. (2008)

We have to fight against discrimination and people saying no! (2008)

I learned about racism, domestic abuse, government and I learned that I am not alone, that there's people like me. (2008)

PALA made me learn about leadership too and to speak up. What I like at PALA was when we went to the U of O. This trip made me want go to college for sure and be there more that just a year or two. The speakers made me more confident to go there and I liked how much they encouraged us to go. (2008)

*I want to thank you for helping me and for providing examples of how your lives have been as well as the lives of all the guest speakers. This changed the way I think and I am happy because you provided these examples. (2009)*

This program has taught me many things, one of them most importantly, is to be leaders. (2009)

I want to go to college and be an *ejemplo* (example)like her. (2009)

*I have learned that I have to improve my life and to continue studying. I learned that it is important to have a career and that when people that only speak Spanish need our help, we can give it to them. (2009)*

I always knew about scholarships but I didn't understand how to find them. (2009)

But learning me being a young woman have rights, have the same amount of equality, it made me open my eyes to the world. If someone puts me down for being a woman, I now know what to say back and its all because of PALA. (2009)

I honestly want to thank you for everything you do for the Latino community and also for giving me an opportunity to get more involved with my culture. From the first time I got involved in the leadership classes, I started to learn more things and I liked it. I had a great time in Puertas. I learned things and I made friends. (2009)

I had the opportunity of listening to different guest speakers about their education and life. This program have teach me to never give up what I want and that we can all make our dreams come true. The teachers that I have, they are great. They understand us because in their life they had a difficult life and had to work hard to be where they are right now. So now I can see that they being a good example for us in *Puertas*. (2010)

Also, I would not have been able to have new doors open to me through the many new guest speakers that came to educate and converse with us. I now know more or less on which path I must go in order for my bamboo or dream to grow, to be a register nurse. (2010)

I would like to say thank you for having all the speakers come and visit us. The speakers were good, experienced, because it showed Latinos and Latinas are everywhere, and through hard work, are now being heard. (2010)

I enjoyed to see that everyone wants to go for different careers. We came together to learn more about college and to get ourselves involved in our community. I appreciate all the speakers that came to advice us to go for their career that we want to pursue which makes me proud to be a part of. (2010)

Also, the author of Water the Bamboo gave me better skills on becoming a better, successful person. As well as new ways to look at life for being what it is. So far, this couple of days, I have had different information given to me that I didn't know quite well. I am really hoping in looking forward to the last final day of information. (2010)

But I give props to the rest of the presenters. They really know what they are talking about and they can help with whatever we need. Thank you to all of them. (2011)

Mrs. Espinoza. Christian and Jim has been a great example to me as to the community. It motivates others to be like them. To become a leader, because they see what they do, and they would love to be like them. I've really enjoyed sharing these great moments in this program. I'm thankful for those who worried and cared about us. It was a great moment. All I can say is "Thank you!" (2011)

I loved how almost all the presenters had stories to tell about their experiences and that they were open to giving advice and help to us. My most favorite presenter would have to be Shadiin because she told us about all her struggles and triumphs of going through school, about how she had this great amount of support from family and friends, and that she now is doing these amazing things throughout the community. (2011)

The presentation on studying abroad done by Chris was probably the best and most convincing presentation I have ever seen. I'm even considering studying abroad. (2011)

*Mrs. Espinoza, thank you for teaching me that everything is possible in life and that we have to fight for what we want in life and that it is better to grow old with a diploma than without one and that we will regret it our entire life if we do not do it. (2011)*

*In conclusion, I loved the presenter Shadiin. Her story moved me, and the thing that interested me the most is that although she had a good education, she experienced many barriers and suffered a lot in order to get to the place where she is now. It is possible! I will always respect you. I feel like I have known her for a long time. I wish her the best today and forever. (2011)*

*What I liked a little bit were the people that came to talk to us. I liked it because they trusted us to tell us their experiences. (2011)*

From the presenters that have come, I've learned that many people came to this country when they were very little. Also, a lot of them experienced racism. They told us that anything is possible if you believe in yourself. They also told us that they were here to support us, that we I needed help, we could call them and they will help us. (2011)



This has been my 2<sup>nd</sup> year in *Puertas Abiertas* and I have learned different things each year. I like how you bring presenters from our community to share their experiences and eso es una inspiracion para mi porque que se que puedo lograr mis metas y que nada es imposible (they are an inspiration for me because I know I can reach my goals and nothing is impossible). (2011)

Some of the presenters amazed me with their stories. I was shocked and surprised by all they went through. Now that this program is over, I know there are people here to help me and others to pursue their goals. (2011)

*I have really liked all the presenters and they have helped me a lot. Thanks to them, I have learned things that I did not know. I have also gotten to learn about their culture and where they come from. All of this means a lot to me.* (2011)

Throughout the two weeks, I got to hear their goals and also their struggles that have helped them keep fighting for their education. The speakers were great. I liked the fact that every single one of them relate to our life stories. That even though they been through stereotypes, pain and let downs, they still had the courage to keep fighting and obtain their goals. I also like how each of them are willing to help us. I feel that even though I lost a lot of allies in high school, I obtained some new ones here at LCC. They have gave us great information that I will use to whatever motivate myself and also prepare myself to become who I need to be for not just my new school but as in life as well. (2011)

All the speakers were great, each one of them help me grow a little bit more every day. Learning all their struggles and to see how far they have gotten, it helps me push myself to become like them. To help those that need it and make this place a better place for everyone. (2012)

*Puertas Abiertas* really did open some doors for me. I learned how important it is to keep your Spanish and not to let it slip away because it's something that will really help you later on when getting a job. I learned a lot about being proud of who I am and my culture and how I should always stand tall and be proud of who I am. I'm going to try my best to gain more Spanish in my life as well. (2012)

There were a lot of moments that I would say were my favorite parts but my most favorite part was when we had Carmen present to us because she was really interactive and she told us a deep story. I felt more confident about myself when she was done with her presentation. I will remember that

Carmen was a strong, successful woman that didn't let anyone put her down. (2012)

The presentation was very motivational and inspiring. He went through so many things as a child, like not knowing he was born in the U.S., having to take care of his siblings most of the time, and always have to take care and be watchful for his mom who had an illness. Knowing that he went through hard times and still succeeded meant a lot to me. If he could do it, so can I. What I will remember from him is his hard work and strength he had such a great amount of courage being able to present his life story with a classroom full of people he didn't know. Beto to me is a role model and I will always remember him and his story. (2012)

His theme was basically fighting for what you want for yourself and not giving up. Even though he was called on short notice, he had a great presentation that kept everyone's attention. I will remember his story and all that he went through, yet, still accomplished his dreams. (2012)

*I learned about opportunities that I will have when I start studying at LCC. Puertas Abiertas has helped me be well informed and that there are many people that can help me with my classes and with scholarships. This is the most important part for me. (2012)*

*My favorite part were all the presentations from many students and other people, I liked them all. I especially liked the stories from people that talked about our origins, culture, opportunities and values. All the topics were important for me, as were the people that shared their stories with us. It is good to know that these people have gone through many difficult moments and that, in the end, they fought and that today they are people with many talents and education. I realized that if they were able to fulfill their dreams, we should also be able to do it. Every intention can succeed if you tackle it with enthusiasm. (2012)*

I enjoy our trips to the University of Oregon a lot. It has pushed me and made me realize that I can one day make it there. (2012)

I feel grateful and blessed to be part of such an amazing group. I found myself looking forward to coming to class and learning about the hardships people took, in order to achieve their goals. It gives me motivation that under all their

struggles, they still made time to reach their goals. Then, I shouldn't have a problem achieving mine. (2012)

The speakers influenced me of not giving up and to accomplish my dreams. I have learned that we need to keep our Spanish in order to succeed more in this society. Also, it makes me to not be shy and to speak in front of people that I don't know. Also, knowing that there is a great leader that is from the same country as you, makes you wanting to keep fighting for your dreams. (2012)

The guest speakers were amazing. They gave us important information and shared their stories with us. I am happy to know these people because they also inspired us to keep moving forward, to believe in ourselves and to realize that we are not alone and that what we are doing is not wrong. (2012)

*There was a presenter that talked about his life and how he overcame obstacles and never gave up. I realized that life is hard, but that one must not let oneself get lost.* (2012)

Also, how to deal with racism and what to do. (2012)

I have meet important people in the community that have worked and became what they wanted to be. It has told me how going to college is not an impossible goal and it can be done if I work hard. I haven't had many Latino teachers and they have really reach to me. The stories I 've heard like Johanis' and Juan Carlos' stories have reach me and and shown how hard they have worked. (2013)

I am glad I had the opportunity to listen and see all this amazing speakers. They have provided me with so much information. (2013)

Having Jim Garcia as the mentor is great! He is an inspiration to me. (2013)

I see Mr. Garcia as a role model, someone who gives you hope and gives the desire to want to succeed . This program is amazing, it talks about the problems we face and problems we can fix. MLK(Martin Luther King) had a dream of Interracial Communities. (2013)

Their stories were very interesting and I'm so happy they shared it with us I love how they gave us advise about why it is important to go to college and why its better to have a good education. (2013)

Having guest speakers everyday was really helpful, by hearing their stories and what they've been through made me realize that I can do it too. Though the path is hard, but some day, somehow, I can make it there. (2013)

I have learned so much about my rights as a human being and as a Latino, and that talking about one's feelings and problems is better than fighting and having hatred for those that oppress us. Like one of my favorites quotes says "Hate can not drive out hate; only love can do that." I realize this to be true, and I feel like *Puertas* helped me to realize it even more. (2013)

I give thanks to all the teachers who came and help us and teach us to give back to the community and how important these lessons are to succeed. Open your ears, eyes, and heart then you really would understand the power to listen and learn. (2013)

I really enjoyed *Puertas Abiertas* because of the great people involved. It was powerful to understand that in school, we aren't always taught our culture, language etc. but minimalized to a day's work of talking about the Civil Rights Movement. We aren't taught our contribution to the United States or how horrible pesticides can be for children in farm workers camps, or about Teatro Campesino, or about immigration policy, which many students are struggling with every day there is no mention of how many reservations still exists, and how the majority of people living in reservations live below the federal poverty line. In *Puertas Abiertas*, they acknowledge these ideas that there is social irregularity in the United States and that change needs to occur. (2013)

Those people that came to talk to us, such as Carmen Xiomara, Beto Montes, and Rita Loop have made me believe in myself and assure myself that if they could reach a higher education so can I. (2013)

*Puertas Abiertas* really showed me how many opportunities I have due to being bilingual in Spanish and English. (2014)

I was also given information about college, which really allowed me to enjoy my future and what it has to offer. Thank you LCC for everything this incredible academy. (2014)

*I also learned that I have to fight for what I want, and that I have to claim my rights as a human being. It is a great privilege to be bilingual as well as an advantage to get more opportunities. (2015)*

*These organizers and the students still have the energy and hope to fight and to work together to make positive changes. This is why I am very grateful for all the effort that people made to make this program possible. It is possible! (2015)*

*I had a great experience on being part of this program. What I learned and the bonds I made with everyone is something I will take to heart and keep for the rest of my life. To be proud of my skin color, of my native language, of my culture are some of the things I learned. (2016)*

*It also has helped me obtain leadership skills, something that is very important for everyone to have, and overall, I have learned a lot about being able to identify my abilities and to share them with other people. Puertas Abiertas not only has taught me about leadership, but it has also taught me how to be connected with my culture and with myself and I know that everything I have learned will be helpful in the future. (2016)*

*I learned about finances and how our culture is seen from different points of view. I also liked that I shared many nice moments with my peers. What I liked the most was the way that people talked to us and how they asked us for things and also the way they asked us to express ourselves, which was very difficult because not all of us have the gift of knowing how to express ourselves, but they also helped us with this and I am very grateful to everyone. (2017)*

*I really liked the way in which people in charge do all the activities. I have liked this program very much and I also liked the way in which it is organized. (2018)*

*PALA was a very influential program that helped many students learn the significance of unity in the face of adversity. (2018)*

*My personality hasn't changed but my mind set has. I had no hope of going to college til now. I see that there are possibilities. (2018)*

*. PALA taught me a lot of things that are necessary in my education and in just life. (2018)*

*My favorite class was the day when we did a field trip of the LCC campus because I could see what is going to be my profession and what I want to do and I loved that. (2019)*

I got to meet lots of real people and I learned lots about going to college. (2019)

*When I came to a college for the first time it made me go WOOOOW, I felt like a little girl from Kindergarten running around here and there, HAHAHA. (2019)*

*I liked the food and also all the guest speakers that came to talk to us to give us information and teach us skills that may be useful in our future. (2019)*

The field trips to the universities were my favorite because a lot of good info was given to us. It helped me choose which university I wanted to go to. I hope this program continues to do these trips because they are very useful & I feel like it's essential info that we as students need to know like resources & such (2019)

*There were many people that gave us a lot of support and many ideas to be able to attend the university such as information about applying for scholarships to be able to study. We also went to the University of Oregon and it was very nice because we met foreigners that had graduated from the university and had been able to fulfill their dreams in this country. (2019)*

From listening to stories of success from 3 fellow Latinas/os I gathered the feeling of "sí se puede." (2019)

### **Transforming/Emerging Story**

**2008-2019**

*Responses in which students expressed a change for the future and an on-going commitment to change that will result in transformational experiences.*

I have also learned that I can go to college if I believe in myself. (2008)

It's OK to say no. It's OK not to be super skinny. It's OK to show who you really are. It's OK to be brown! (2008)

I have learned a lot this couple of weeks about being a leader and learning to step up for a change and how to handle violence and what to do. The way I felt

here and PALA made me think that school is important and not a waste of my time! I have the chance to be someone in my life and I know that I should go to school and go everyday. I feel like that's a goal for me and I want to reach that goal! (2008)

Thanks to *Puertas*, I am closer to know as to what to do in the future. (2009)

I hope you know how appreciated you are and that what you do truly does change the lives and perceptions of many young people. Most adults don't even attempt to do that and I thank you for leading us into understanding the potential that we have. (2009)

These four weeks that I have spent in *Puertas* has been a wonderful experience. I have learned a lot about my culture and learned a lot of things to prepare me for high school. I have learned so many important things that will help me through life. (2009)

Even though its your job, I want to say thank you for spending your time on us young Latinos. You spend your time on us when you could be doing something else, but you and I know that the youth is the future. My real thank you will be when I graduate from college, that will be my form of saying thank you. Thank you because actions are more powerful than words. (2009)

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to be myself, to be someone who wants to be a leader, who wants to make a change and just being outgoing, because that's how I am, except I do not show it when I'm with my family. (2009)

I'm very thankful for giving me this opportunity. I learn so many things that I could never forget. (2009)

Thanks to *Puertas*, I have learned to be more responsible. Cautious, smart and a leader by myself. I really did change a lot in this program and hope to be here next year. I really learned a lot of new ways to get a higher education and has inspired me to do better in school to get degrees and get a good job and a great life. I really found out that education can change our lives. My future is set up and ready to go. (2009)

This program is great and was helpful about the things to know about the opportunities for college. It showed us that everything is possible if we are willing to work for it. Through it, I know what I want to do now. (2010)

If I decide to change my major I will most definitely be bilingual as a nurse to help out my people. (2010)

I will take something in my heart and I will make my dreams into a reality. (2010)

It has shown me that I can be successful in life and that I can be what I want to become. *Puertas Abiertas* has shown me that I can make my dreams come true, if I work my hardest. When I'm done with high school and graduate from the university, I will thank *Puertas Abiertas* because if I didn't have come, I wouldn't know nothing about college and university. (2010)

All in all, I had fun being part of this academy because it showed me the values and dreams of life. It made me see what I could do for my future and how to be successful in everyday life to become the person I who want to be, who I will be in some years as a pediatrician. (2010)

To me, I think that *Puertas* is a good thing for Latinos and I would like to come back and help around and still be a part of the program. I thank *Puertas* for being there and helping me out and just teaching me the right way to my future. *Si Se Puede!* Thank you. (2010)

Now PALA is ending and it's sad because I made a lot of great friends who I know will succeed in life. I learned so much thanks to everyone that was a part of this. It's incredible and a great feeling knowing there is so many people in our community to go for support. I'm proud to be a Latina and to be a part of the Latino community and proud to be part of PALA. (2011)

All in all, the *Puertas Abiertas* Summer Academy has indeed opened up many doors for me and will always be one of my top experiences with the Latino community. (2011)

*I will never forget all that I learned in these past two weeks because everything I learned, I am going to share with my community and family. I thank everyone, with all my heart, for all that you have done for us, because none of us would have thought about continuing if we had not received the help that we have gotten here in Puertas Abiertas.* (2011)

*Puertas Abiertas* encourage me even more to go to college and achieve all the goals that I have in my life. (2011)

*I wish that the program did not come to an end because we have had such a great time and we have all become a family, helping each other out, speaking*



*Spanglish with our friends in the classroom. We also shared our experiences and the struggles we have endured. This program helps us be stronger and grow every day knowing that we are not the only ones with problems, that there are many more people out there with problems that fight every day to get ahead. But everything comes to an end and this end has arrived. I will never forget what I learned from everyone and I will always consider this knowledge and I hope that I can bring my little sister next year so that she can also live these beautiful experiences I was able to participate in. (2011)*

*Every day I come here, I feel very loved by Mrs. Espinoza and by my classmates, they fill up my self-esteem. I have loved coming to these classes and I have learned a lot and I think it will be easier when I go to the university. Now I feel a lot more confident about continuing my studies. I want to and I am going to become a dentist. I want to help and serve my community. Puertas Abiertas has been a wonderful experience for me. (2011)*

*Today I feel like I have opened a door that was closed and I have seen what I am. I would also like to thank everyone for everything and I hope that I can get to live these wonderful experiences next year. Thank you again for everything and I want you to know that I have opened my door to a better future and I will continue opening more until I achieve my life goals. Thank you. (2011)*

But thanks Jim for the support you offer and for helping us become leaders and giving us the Esperanza (hope) to keep going in life. Thanks. (2011)

Before coming to *Puertas Abiertas*, I was working and getting things ready for my first year of college. I was excited to come back and learn more about college and about members of the community. I'm glad I came back this year. I can go home and let everyone know all the things I have learned. Now I'm going to go home and put a lot of this information at work. I hope I can come back and be able to help the new kids in the next few years, to help achieve their goals and dreams. I had a wonderful time. Thank you. (2012)

This experience will help me to be so much more confident and it will help me get ready for when I enter college. (2012)

The way this experience will help me from now on is by being proud of who I am and knowing that I can be whatever I want if I work hard to get it. This experience will also help me when it comes down to applying for scholarships, financial aid and choosing what kind of college I want to go to. (2012)

*This experience has been fundamental for me because I was able to learn many things that may help me in the future. (2012)*

I feel so different from all of the students but with Carmen's presentation, I learned to understand that I am Mexican, and I should be proud to be Mexican and show it to the world. When people ask for my name, I will say it properly, the way my grandmother intended me to have it said. (2012)

I really like this program you get to meet new people and their background and you get a lot of information from College or University and I hope to be back next year. (2012)

This experience, will definitely help me get more involved with my community and all the Latino organizations. Together, we can achieve bigger and better things that will not only help us, but our families, our children and all the people around us. This is surely not the last I will be seeing of *Puertas Abiertas*. Hopefully, I can one day come back as an Intern myself. (2012)

This is the third year of me being in *Puertas Abiertas* and the last year also, this year has been different for me. Every year, it was a wonderful experience. I have met different people and I have become friends with them. *Puertas Abiertas* this year has been great. I got to know new people and it has been different than the years before and that was good. Thanks to Jim and Elena, *Puertas* students will be great students that will be proud of who they are and from where they come from. (2012)

I hope I get the chance to do this again next year. I learned a lot about my community and the things I can do to help it. I had lots of fun and I connected with people from other schools. Also, people from my own, it was a little scary coming here, but at the end, I have more confidence in myself. I'm not afraid to speak on what is right or wrong. I hope the people that joined me feel the same or even better. This was one of the best experiences this year and I don't regret joining. I am going to make some friends join so they can see it is worth it. I thank everyone for making it a great two weeks of my Summer. (2012)

I learned that going to college is important because you can be someone better and have a good job. I also learned that for people that want to know you, you just don't say your name Luis, instead your full name and what it represents you as. These experiences will help me by talking to people more and focused more on my education because it is important. I didn't have a favorite part

because I liked everything that we did. I will remember that you don't have to be someone else that you are and where you come from. (2012)

I have learned to stick to my roots and remember where I came from and how I have to work hard to get to where I want to go but is going to be worth it. I've always been shy but *Puertas Abiertas* has really helped me become a leader and go and make new connections with people from all over the community, *Puertas Abiertas* a a very fun experience and I love it. (2013)

Having Jim and Elena as our teachers was an awesome experience and I would not change them for anything, they have both changed my point of view on my future and have taught me many valuable lessons that I will carry on with me for the rest of my life. I would more than happily return as a student again next year or maybe even as a mentor in the future. I would recommend this leadership academy to everyone. (2013)

The trips to OSU and U of O make me positive I will soon be there completing my Master/PHD. Our philosophy/Idea of "No Shame! No Blame! No Excuses!" is something I try to apply to my daily life. *Puertas* has given me the tools I need to be successful and to open very important doors into my future. I would strongly recommend this program to any student who has interest in learning about their culture. You get to meet amazing leaders. I hope this program continues for a long time. (2013)

In addition to all we learned about scholarships and college, I'm looking forward to graduation high school and living on campus. What I plan to take with me for the rest of my life is burned into my mind; No shame, No blame, No excuses! Thank you for this program! (2013)

This program has help me in my social skills, and mental skills. (2013)

PALA has helped me a lot to be more confident as a leader. The activities where we had to speak in front of everyone really helped me to believe more of others. I feel like I am improving my public speaking and becoming better at listening to others when it is there turn to speak. (2013)

The basis of the program, attainment of higher education, is the drive of social change that will most impact our day to day lives. It is the solution to change the system problems. (2013)

All the information that has been given to me here at *Puertas* about how to get into college, who I am and where I come from are very important to me and I

know that all that I have been taught here I will use in life it fills me with joy knowing that there are programs like this one who reach out to the Latino Community and want to help and get involved with young Latino Students. It makes me realize that people do care about us even it sometimes we feel pushed out by society because we are not considered "The Norm" or to be part of the White Culture that surround us. We need more programs like this to make students want to earn a higher education and know that they have the resources and the intelligence to do so. Next year I would like to come to *Puertas* again and possibly have the chance to be a mentor for *Puertas Abiertas* in 2014, again thank you for this great opportunity to be a part of an amazing program. (2013)

I also plan to attend PALA for the rest of my high school years and hopefully be an intern! Thank you. (2014)

In this program I learned how to accomplish my dreams. (2014)

. I appreciate everyone who made this program possible and I am ready to get in action with the community. Thank you. (2014)

The program has told us and showed us how to be a great leader. To change the world and it has helped us with get into college. They made us feel like we are college students and one day to be a student not for three weeks but to get our dream job. (2014)

*I feel very proud to see all the students transformed in just a few weeks because I can see how they have changed and have become leaders and how they participate more actively in our community. (2015)*

*Today I feel very proud to be part of this family because we have shared many things together, we shared memories, laughter, and stories. I am very happy to graduate from the program, but I also hope I will see this family again. What changed in me was my ability to be a leader because I feel that I grew into the person I want to be. The program gave me strength and reasons to help my community. (2015)*

*What I learned in PALA influenced me to want to do better and to not get left behind and to fight for my dreams. Today I feel very proud of myself, of my roots and of who I am. I am very happy to have been part of this program. (2015)*

*The thing that has helped me the most from the Puertas Abiertas/Pasos al Futuro program has been the inspiration that it provided for me to get ahead and follow the career of my dreams. (2015)*

*Before Puertas Abiertas, I felt excited because this year I became an intern and I could see another face of this program. Today I can say that I feel happy, proud and excited. I feel proud because this PALA summer, everyone made the Puertas family grow. (2015)*

*I now consider myself to be a stronger person and I realize that there will be obstacles as well as ups and downs, but at the end of it all, they are all experiences that we obtain to know how to act when we have problems in the future. I now feel more prepared to go to the university and for the time when I have to get a job. Although the fear is still there, with God's help and my own efforts, I will be able to fulfill everything I set my mind to. (2015)*

*But after Puertas Abiertas, I feel like instead of just taking it as whatever of the Latinos, I can help us be better and stick together. (2015)*

*Now I know that a true leader doesn't just achieve success on his own but he helps others there too. A leader brings others on his journey to success, I know that in order to achieve success we need to work together to reach our goals. What changed in me is that now I want to help others follow their dreams. (2015)*

*I feel like that even after PALA, I will be a different person and that class also taught me how to make resumes, scholarships, leader, a good listener, respecting to my family and even be happy towards myself. I can't wait to come back and help as well as talk the amazing experience I had when I took Puertas Abiertas. (2015)*

*I would like for this program to be offered next year and many more years after that. We learn many beautiful things and we become friends with the other students that come to the program. (2016)*

*I feel more confident and more proud of myself and I know that I can succeed in the near future. Now I know what steps I need to take in order to go to college. I have had many experiences in this program and feel happy about everything*

*that I accomplished. I am very happy and grateful to you for allowing me to be part of this program. (2016)*

*The truth is that I wish that Puertas Abiertas continues to be offered and that more students get invited to come and learn about Puertas Abiertas. I liked Puertas Abiertas because I met many new people and I hope that I will see them again next year. (2016)*

*I would love that LCC continues to provide these kinds of programs and give more support to this one, that is because the people who make this program a life-changing experience give their everything, everyday and make a wonderful job at that. (2016)*

*Overall, in this program, I found motivation and support to continue with my education and I also learned that everything is possible and this is why I wish and hope that this program continues forever. Puertas Abiertas has been a marvelous experience. (2016)*

*If it was up to me, I would make sure Puertas Abiertas continues to help students and connect with community. (2016)*

*I want this program to continue being offered in order to continue giving opportunities to other young students in order for them to have a better future and to continue on a good path to be able to help the Latino community. This is a great opportunity and you cannot find it anywhere else. (2016)*

*I was introduced to a group of people I can now call my family. The bond Puertas Abiertas creates between its students is unbelievable. I am extremely fortunate to have been given the opportunity to participate in such a life-changing program and I really hope I can come back next year to relive this wonderful time. I strongly hope LCC gives this program the opportunity to keep doing wonders to kid's lives. (2016)*

*So overall the program was great and I would love to see it progress and inspire many more people in the future so please keep the program going! So thank you everyone who helped Puertas Abiertas begin. It's been great ride and one I will never forget. (2016)*

*I very much enjoyed my experience here and am willing to recommend to others! Puertas Abiertas has taught me so much and I'll for sure come back next year if they continue to have this academy. (2016)*

Making connections and learning the life skills I did at *Puertas* made me feel more ready for life. I want to thank Beto, and both Adriana for calming me down and connecting with me from the first day, Sra. Espinoza, for believing that I can participate in every activity, and all the students who were willing to take time to reach out and talk with me. Thank you. (2017)

The people in the group are some of the most humble and beautiful people that I have ever met and I am extremely blessed to have met everyone in the group and to have formed a bond that can never be broken. This group has help me stay positive for the longest time and I am truly thankful to have gotten the opportunity to be a part of it. (2017)

The workshops we did here were all super helpful and informative, I feel like I have the tools that are necessary to have a successful future. (2017)

We have hung out outside of the class and brought our joy, intelligence and family strength to to the community our hope for our family at *Puertas* to keep growing strong and staying connected is immense after everything we've gone through I am sad to say goodbye to everyone , but I know we have each other's back whenever we are in need. (2017)

I'm glad that I decided to take this opportunity of grown this summer. I will definitely be thinking of the life lessons I learned here and applying them to my normal everyday school day. (2017)

Now this is our last day and I had a great time and got what I wanted from the program plus I got to meet great people with similar stories to mine which made us connect and make the experience much better. My only complaint is that it was too short.

*I also learned to value me and that I can achieve whatever I put my mind to it and to feel proud of whom I am. I hope this program will always be available to help adolescents. I want others to experience how beautiful this program is just like I did. (2017)*

I found myself immersed in a great community which I adore. I hope this program continues and positively affects many other lives. (2018)

*I hope that this program can continue being offered for many years to come because it has a great impact in young people. Please continue doing such a great job.* (2018)

I'm glad *Puertas Abiertas* is offered because it gives us a dream and a vision of our future. It also creates a family that we can ask if we need help. Lastly, they believe we can reach our goal. Thank you. (2018)

Thank you for all the opportunities that you have given me and everyone who attended. I am so pleased to have been here and share the two weeks with everyone. It has made me feel very motivated and I am grateful for that. I love everyone here and I love this experience, I mean that sincerely. (2018)

I realize that this program opens many doors and gives us many opportunities for our futures. I thank the founder of this program for opening the doors to us and for giving us so many opportunities. I want to thank everyone in the program. "Blessings."

I am so thankful for every single person that makes the program possible and I hope that one day my younger siblings can be a part of it and have the wonderful experience I had. No words can explain how much more confident and prepared I feel. Thank you *Puertas!* (2018)

Two weeks seemed like months and I wish this would last forever. I enjoy being here each and every day. I love this program and I appreciate everyone who made this possible for us. PALA will always be in my heart. (2018)

They taught us valuable information that will be useful in our future and for that we're eternally grateful. (2018)

I learned so much in *Puertas Abiertas* and would be so excited to come here again. (2018)

I think *Puertas Abiertas* has helped me a lot through these days. So, thank you *Puertas Abiertas*. These days like I said, have helped me by trying to get a higher goal than I was reaching for, so thanks. (2018)

I met a lot of great and amazing people. We all made and met a new family that will cherish, support and love us always. I think we are all very sad that this experience and journey has come to an end because we are all very connected now and will miss each other. (2018)



Very thankful for this opportunity I was given and really loved being here with each and every single person. Hopefully, this program keeps going for many years to come. Thank you for everything because this was definitely a life changing experience. (2018)

*In this program I have learned many good things that I liked very much. Puertas Abiertas helped me a lot to see things in a different way; I learned to respect people and that we all have to be very honest with each other. I met many people that have a very good heart. I hope that they accept me again next year because I would like to meet more people and learn more of the things that they teach in this program. (2018)*

I enjoyed touring OSU and U of O. I don't really know where I want to go yet but visiting and learning more about the schools definitely made me feel more secure about going to college. (2019)