

Interviewee: Lillian Gomez
Location: Cooper Room, Nielson Library
Time: 4:00pm
Date: 02/05/2015

Interview protocol:

Welcome, Lillian. It's certainly wonderful to have you here this afternoon. The basic idea of this interview is to have a casual conversation about the San Luis Valley and specifically about your life experiences here in the Valley.

With that being said, let's go ahead and get started.

Can you tell us a little about your family's history here in the San Luis Valley? (Who was the first member of your family to come to the Valley? What did they do here? Etc.)

Did you ever leave the Valley, when and why? What brought you back?

What is the root of your passion and commitment to education in the Valley?

- Can you tell us a little more about your experience working with Hispanics in the education system in here in the Valley over the years?
- Also, could you tell us more about your work with Title VII and the implementation of the Alamosa Desegregation Plan?
- Can you also share with us a little about your experience, if at all, working with undocumented immigrants in the education system here in the Valley?

Did you grow up with any particular cultural beliefs or traditions? If so, how did they influence your education and career path?

Have you been able to pass any of these cultural beliefs and traditions on to your children? If so, which ones?

Related to culture, we understand that you speak both Spanish and English. Can you tell us a little about the Spanish language in the Valley?

What was it like growing up bilingual in Valley?

Rural areas are often known for their tight-knit communities. With that in mind, could you comment on some of the ways you have stayed connected to your community through the years?

What is the importance of the Valley to you?

What is your favorite place in the Valley and why?

Is there something special about the Valley you would want outsiders to know?