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# InterCultural Focus

## Student Spotlight

**Name:** Corina Gonzalez

**Major:** Communication Studies

**Position:** Office Manager & Coordinator

**Q: How do you define interculturalism and the role it plays in your life?**

A: Interculturalism includes the relationships between people with different cultural backgrounds and supporting cross-cultural dialogue within different communities creating unity and promoting social justice. Due to my position here at Ethnic & Intercultural Services, I am always open to learning about culture and different traditions that can also be somewhat similar to my heritage (I find those types of discoveries fascinating). Also, outside of LMU, I volunteer for a non-profit organization called Family Promise of the South Bay where 12 interfaith churches participate in providing service and resources for homeless families. It is important that I communicate well with the people involved with this organization by respecting their values and traditions even though they are different than mine/ours.



**Q: How do you hope to incorporate what you've learned in the office and apply it to the greater community?**

A: I thank EIS for introducing me to educate myself and become part of a greater service outside of Los Angeles. Last summer, I had the opportunity to go to the Dominican Republic with my church congregation and help educate and counsel kids between the ages of 5-18 years. I went with the intention of teaching these kids and yet I was taught. I also went with the intention of making change in people's lives and yet I was the one who was changed. For those that have not gone on an AB trip or study abroad, I recommend that you do not miss out on these opportunities that LMU provides to us.

**Q: Can you share one defining moment that you've had while working in the EIS office that solidified your interest in social equality?**

A: The Tunnel of Oppression and Hope event that EIS plans with students and other departments in Student Affairs made a huge impact on me. I am just amazed to see the passion in LMU students when it comes to social equality. Through my self-reflections, personal experiences and hardships, I have been able to identify my passion. I have been able to discover what makes my heart sing from the inside out (if that makes any sense). I hope to one day run a program for First Generation College Students or travel to different countries to promote education.