



ETHNIC &
INTERCULTURAL
SERVICES

ENGAGE

EMPOWER

EM

EXPLORE

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 is the relationship between people with different cultural backgrounds and supporting a cross-cultural dialogue within diverse communities while creating unity and promoting social justice. I feel that Interculturalism plays a huge role in everyone's life. My life, in particular, because of my position here in the Department of Ethnic & Intercultural Services, I am always open to learning about all cultures and different traditions that can also be somewhat similar to my heritage (I find those types of discoveries fascinating). Outside of LMU, I volunteer for a non-profit organization called Family Promise of the South Bay where 12 interfaith churches participate in providing services and resources for homeless families, so 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.

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 encouraging me to 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 a positive change in people's lives and yet I was the one who 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 for 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. During the planning process of the event, I was amazed to see the passion in LMU students, faculty and staff when it comes to social equality. On the day of the event, I participated in the tour that highlights the contemporary issues of oppression. Through my self-reflections, personal experiences and hardships, I have been able to identify my passion and discover what makes my heart sing from the inside-out. I hope to one day run a program for First Generation College Students or travel to different countries to promote education.