

2014 Distinguished Graduate



Irma G. Perales Sociology

"Our world is full of differences. Appearance, race, and beliefs but it is the reactions to these things that make our society. Close-mindedness is not a way to live life. If you refuse to make exceptions then life can never work for you."

—Bethany Perales

Biography

Irma Perales is a non-traditional student attending San Antonio College. It has taken her 27 years to return to school. Just a year and a half ago, she was a stay-at-home mother. What prompted Irma to attend higher education was the tragic loss of her eldest daughter, who died at the age of 19 in a fatal car accident on December 27, 2007. She died saving the life of her little brother as she held him in his car seat. Bethany was a first semester student at Baylor University. Baylor recognized her as a hero and provided a living endowment in her honor. It had taken Irma four years to overcome her personal grief. This life experience has been her motivation to pursue a degree in Sociology.

Irma plans to attend Texas A&M in the fall of 2014, while pursuing a double degree in Sociology and Psychology. Her ultimate goal is to obtain a Master and Doctorate degree at the University of Texas at Austin. With her life experience and education, Irma aspires to be a Case Manager or Director at Haven for Hope. Irma plans to dedicate her life to challenge the status quo regarding the Social Psychological factors such as the fallacy of retrospective determinism with regards to poverty. She believes through education, people can change their social economic status. Irma's goal is to continue working with Ambassador Siv as he continues to spread his message of hope speaking to colleges and universities across the nation and to third world countries.



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