

## **SSCC Personal Statement**

The primary reason why I am running for the President and Student Trustee position for the Student Senate at Chabot College, is because I have always been told that a person like myself could never possibly succeed. As the son of Mexican immigrants, my story resonates with a lot of other first-generation college students. My parents came to this country and etched out a meager living to support me and my siblings. To an extent, they did so by purchasing a home in Redwood City, that was, until, the recession hit and the only home that I ever knew was foreclosed due to subprime mortgage loans. Witnessing the anguish and humiliation that my family faced, I knew that I needed to break away from this cycle of economic disparity and marginalization by going to college. After my family and I were pushed out of Redwood City due to the rising housing costs and gentrification brought on by the influx of Silicon Valley Tech workers, we sought refuge in Hayward. It was here that Chabot College gave me what others places never did: they gave me a chance. It was here that they provided me the skills and opportunity to succeed. I graduated from Chabot in 2016 with a degree in Social Science and Liberal Arts, and transferred to CSU East Bay where I also graduated and earned my Bachelor's degree in History with a minor in Ethnic Studies. Nevertheless I have continued to pursue my intellectual curiosity and ambition by continuing to take courses here at Chabot. I am currently taking courses in order to earn an associate's degree in: Economics, Sociology, and Mathematics.

Three adjectives that best described me are ambitious, determined and steady. I say this because I've always tried to prove people wrong. Whether it's being told that I can't succeed in school because of my background, lack of financial resources, or culture, I continue to plow ahead in order to get the job done. Moreover, before the previous presidential administration took office, I was generally apolitical. However, the past four years have taught me that if I don't become involved in politics then other, unscrupulous individuals will. That is why, as a member of the SSCC, my goal is to connect with the CLPCCD and the college administration in order to express our concerns on issues that are very important to us. They need to hear from someone who actually knows the struggle of flipping burgers and tacos from Burger King and Taco Bell at 1 am. They need to hear from someone who drives a beat up 1997 Saturn SL2, only to buy a parking permit but no available parking. Our diversity and commitment to equity and social justice is not just a slogan, it's the real deal. I am living proof that it is possible. Like Tom Hanks

once said, "Chabot College made me what I am today." My name is Alberto Mora, and I wish to be your President or Student Trustee.