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Interview: TBD

- Legal introduction/ verbal consent
- 0:00-0:35
- Dr. C: today is the 1st of April 2021, I am here with Miranda Salgado, Kolt Rogers, and Brittany Castro. We are interviewing Brittany via Zoom for the South Phoenix Oral History Project. I want to make sure we have your consent to record the interview and use it for scholarly purposes.
BC: yes you have my permission to record and use it for that.
- Dr. Cherland tells the date, who is in the zoom meeting, and asks as well as receives verbal consent from Brittany Castro.
- Earliest memory of growing up in south phoenix
- 1:20-3:00
- KR: What is your earliest memory of growing up in south Phoenix? BC: I would have to say my earliest memory is visiting my grandma. I lived in the west side of Phoenix but my grandma lived in south phoenix. I remember going there for family functions, like any event was held there.
- Kolt Rogers asks the first question of the interview, in which Brittany Castro responds with a short but thoughtful answer to the question.
- What her parents were doing for work when she was little
- 3:13-7:20
- BC: My mom's name is Debroah Castro. She was a stay at home mom. I'm the baby out of 8 kids. My mom never really worked, she always stayed home taking care of the kids. For my dad, he used to own his own business. He is an iron/construction worker. His name is Steve Castro. He would tell me stories of how he got started in the field when he was young. He's built all sorts of buildings in and out of the state. During my senior year he went to work in Texas for a long time. Now he is back and is a foreman for another construction company. He seems like a big tough guy but when you get to know him he's really sweet. I attribute my generosity to my parents, but my dad a little more.
- Brittany gets asked about what her parents did for work when she was little and talks about her mom stayed home taking care of many kids and her dad was always very busy working in the iron and construction industry and is still working today.



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- The impact religion had on her childhood
 - 7:30-11:58
 - BC: So my whole family is Catholic so I was baptized when I was born and had those other big religious moments while I got older. When I was smaller we would always go to church, like every Sunday and then sometimes there would be times when we didn't go and I'm not really sure why. I remember liking going to church because we went to the same church that my grandma went to, as well as some of my other family. Then we would always go get breakfast together at our favorite restaurant. After I got my confirmation is when we kind of stopped going. My parents are definitely still religious today, mainly my mom. In Tucson they have a really old mission and going down there is probably my most favorite place to be. I feel like that spot is my connection with my other grandma because that used to be her favorite spot too. I've been wanting to go down there for a few years because it might help out my family in some way.
 - Brittany talks about her favorite memories of going to church as a child and talks about an old church in Tucson that her family has a connection to and her family is wanting to go down there to light candles.
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- What was a big event that impacted her life
 - 12:22-15:10
 - BC: A big event that I remember is probably when we moved. We really needed to move because the house we had was too small for the amount of people we had in it. Then my family found a house in Laveen and we lived in Laveen for about 20 years. Seeing Laveen grow over time was definitely interesting, I miss all of the crop fields there. Another big thing I remember would be 9/11. I was probably in the 1st grade and I remember waking up and my mom saying something happened but I didn't understand. Going to school that day was different but my peers and I didn't really understand what happened.
 - Brittany talks about a very big change in her life which was moving. Her family needed a bigger house for their growing children so they moved to Laveen where they stayed for 20 years. She also talks about her memory of 9/11 and says how she was really too young to understand what was happening.



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- First job
- 15:30-21:30
- BC: I just graduated from highschool and my dad told me I needed to go to school and get a job. I knew I wanted to attend SMCC, and I was in the ACE program. I was in ACE my junior and senior year, ACE means Achieving a College Education. I already had known people from the South so I knew I would be taken care of. I knew if I needed something I could go to my ACE buddies. I started the job hunt, I really wanted to work at Target or chick fil-a. I was friends with someone who worked in the cafeteria and I told him I was looking for a job and he said the bookstore was hiring. I got the assistant managers number and was waiting for a phone call. The next day I got a call and I got an interview, and then I ended up getting the job. I really don't know how I lived off of 250 dollars every two weeks. Once I started working I bought my gas and other things. I ended up learning the bookstore very well and I could help people.
- Brittany talks about her job which was at SMCC and how she loved it and learned to do it very well. She also talks about the money she earned and what she did with it.
- How Brittany thought people viewed her being from South Phoenix
- 29:00-31:56
- BC: For me when I was young I never really noticed a difference, I never felt a certain way about it, and nobody really said anything. It wasn't really until I started working for ACE tha I started hearing things but to me the things they were saying weren't the case. To me I feel like our area is nice. No One really told me anything, I would just hear random things. We know that we are good, it's just other people and we need to to help show them who we are. People have a false notion in their head and they just need to give South Phoenix a chance.
- She gives her opinion on what people think South Phoenix is and what It really is. She talks about her personal experience of hearing what other people said about her area.



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- What is ACE?
- 32:15-45:15
- BC: The ACE program stands for Achieving a College Education and we have been around for 33 years now. SMCC is the college that started the ACE program. When it first started it was there to give at risk students in high school a chance and encourage them to do college. No one in my family had ever completed college before so it was a big deal to me. Another thing about it is that now we accept everyone. But there is a few criteria they need to meet. The only time you can apply is your sophomore year in highschool. The hardest part is the essay. (gets into logistics of ACE)
- Brittany passionately talks about ACE and what it can do for other people and what it means to her
- How ACE has impacted her life
- 45:28-59:04
- BC: ACE has done so much for me. They have given me a job, if it wasn't for them I would not have an apartment or be living on my own. My highlight of it would be I got to meet my best friend. Talking about her and ACE just gives me that pride feeling. And it makes me so happy I got to have the experience. It helped my decision if college was for me or not. It helped me in a very stressful time in my life dealing with personal things. My ACE friends checked in on me when I was at my lowest and it changed me, That's why I'm so passionate about what I do. Ace also got me into storytelling. I really can't thank all of the ACE people or South Mountain enough.
- Brittany gets emotional talking about how ACE changed her life for the better and she wouldn't be where she is in life if it wasn't for the program.



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- What advice Brittany would give someone for the Future
- 51:45-54:00
- BC: I would definitely say don't worry about other people, focus on yourself, because in the end you are the one that's gonna make yourself happy and you are the one that's gonna get yourself out of situations. Learn to ask people for help. That was my biggest problem, I just didn't know how. During my highschool life and my early 20's I always had people telling me to speak up for myself, and it wasn't until I worked at ACE that they helped me find my voice. Find your voice, speak up when you need to, be your own advocate. You know what you need best. Don't let other people tell you otherwise.
- Brittany speaks on what advice she would give to someone else. She talks of advice from personal experience and things that you should focus on.