

Born and raised in Northern California, I was always surrounded by diversity in elementary school to the All-Girls Parochial Catholic High School. I grew up in the Silicon Valley where all the start-ups – Yahoo!, Google, Pixar – were founded. My mother and father who immigrated from Mexico, went to night school to learn English and got MBAs.

I first learned about the Civil Rights Movement as a child when a controversial art sculpture, dedicated to Caesar Chavez, was put up in Downtown San Jose's park. The San Jose Mercury News and local news stations were bombarded by opinionated people. There was even a march downtown for Civil Rights leaders that included people carrying posters of Martin Luther King and Caesar Chavez, among many other activists.

Today I am proud to say that two of my family members are graduates of Stanford University, UC Berkeley, and SFU. I feel that the Civil Rights Movement led empowerment to a wide array of individuals that continues up to this day. Martin Luther King helped not only in the Civil Rights Movement but he also aided in instilling pride and working against prejudice.

I Have A Dream that people with disabilities, along with minorities will one day be not overlooked or discriminated against. I Have A Dream that one day people with disabilities will be recognized for their gifts and contributions to the Art World, Sciences and Politics. I Have A Dream that I will find my voice to contribute to the movement against discrimination and that I won't be afraid to disclose my name. I have a dream to be shameless and brave about my disability.