



Moving from Mexico to the US at 11 years of age was a challenge for Miguel, especially having to learn English so he could participate in classes and make new friends. He was lucky to have ESL teachers in most of his classes at Tuttle Middle School in Crawfordsville. Their help and his diligence paid off so that by high school, he says, “I gained enough knowledge and confidence to speak and write English so that I became more of an outspoken person in my classes.”

When Miguel was 17, during the summer, he got his first job working as a waiter in a restaurant. The job was full time, six days a week. He says, “This job helped me realize how hard it is work without a degree, and even though for me it seemed like it was a good salary, I saw it wasn’t enough for a living.” When he began college he worked at Radio Shack gaining skills in customer service, money management, decision making, and active listening. At the same time he volunteered with a dietician from his old high school to inform parents about healthy eating concepts for their families. That experience helped him decide that dietetics was the career for him.

Miguel enrolled at Ivy Tech in the fall of 2014. This summer he will be finishing his studies there and then will be starting at Purdue this fall. He wants to earn his Bachelor’s Degree and find a job in a nursing home to help the elderly. At the present time Miguel works as a cook for Signature Health Care full time six days a week. In this job he is responsible for preparing the dinner meals for residents, ensuring that they get proper meals and proper diets. Miguel hopes to go on for a Masters and eventually earn a Doctorate Degree so he can teach in a community college.

When Miguel came to the United States it was because his mother wanted to ensure that he would have good education and a better future. She has been his support emotionally and financially. Miguel says she has worked long hours and even overtime to help him with his payments each semester. Since he is not a citizen he cannot receive financial aid but as a DECA student he receives some help for tuition from the state. The Rotary scholarship will help with summer school and enable him to use some of his earnings to save for tuition at Purdue this fall.