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Subject: Statement of Purpose

One of my cherished quotes is "turn anger into wisdom." This phrase spared me from adopting an anger-fueled outlook, something society often pressures people of color to embody. As a woman, DACA recipient, and first-generation immigrant, I grappled with generational trauma and the challenges of our world. Throughout my life, I've been urged to stay quiet due to my immigration status and gender. Trump's election evoked fear for my family, triggering a deep anger that led me to question the pursuit of the American dream. A pivotal moment came when my professor advised that change doesn't always require protest; alternative paths can be equally impactful. This wisdom transformed me, steering me away from anger and towards proactive change, aligning with the dream my parents sacrificed for.

In December 2020, I joined Mi Centro as a domestic violence advocate, stepping into a role with limited prior knowledge. Despite the initial challenges, I embraced the opportunity to expand my skills and knowledge, fueled by Mi Centro's commitment to professional development. While I found fulfillment in advocating for others, I observed a concerning dynamic of hostility and bullying among my colleagues.

Motivated by a desire to address both external challenges and those within the workplace, I decided to advocate not only for our clients but also for my fellow coworkers facing mistreatment. Building on my commitment and honesty, I collaborated with the Executive Director to instigate positive change. Recognizing the unmet needs of our immigrant families, I spearheaded the development of our largest program to date - the Family Support Services program.

My journey within Mi Centro has been transformative. From an advocate to a coordinator, then to a Director, I am now proud to serve as the Deputy Director. Witnessing our team grow from 5 to 17 staff/contractors has been a testament to the impact we can create together. While I have acquired leadership skills, I am hungry for more growth. Pursuing a Master of Public Administration (MPA) is a natural progression in my journey, building upon the foundation laid during my undergraduate studies at The Evergreen State College. I am excited about the prospect of furthering my education and contributing even more meaningfully to our community.