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## Chicano in Eureka

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## Chicano in Eureka

My name is Adrian Vielma. I am a Chicano. I've spent a majority of my life in Humboldt, save 2 years. My parents are from Oaxaca, Mexico. They moved to Escondido and then moved to Humboldt to be closer to family. It was definitely a different atmosphere and weather here. It was also a culture shock coming from Escondido where it's mostly my people and here not so much.

The best thing about Humboldt are the school systems. It might not be the best academically, but it is community based with different cultures and backgrounds that come together. All things considered, I think I've had a pretty good experience here. I've made friends with people from different ethnicities which is something I might not have gotten in Escondido since it's mostly Mexicanos. Yet, I've never felt outcasted or not included and I appreciate being able to experience other cultures.

As a kid I was called a border hopper and a beaner, but I don't hold it against them since when you're a kid you don't really understand the meaning and depth behind those words. So, I wouldn't say I was treated with racism, but I'm definitely conscious that those are racist words that were said to me so I do have that experience.

My parents are pretty strict so I didn't get to go out much. There is this hill though, I forget the name, but it has old train tracks and benches, and it's a beautiful overlook of the water and a bit of the mall. It's so open and quiet, it's my go-to place for sure. I think the schools could have more diverse culture and history education.

I think for me (as a man) I've always felt pretty safe, but I know it's different for other genders. I think it would be beneficial to have more resources for the unhoused. I think immigration in the United States is a super hard and unnecessarily long process. My dad has been trying for 19 years to get my grandma up here and it's been a huge struggle so I'm passionate about fighting for immigrant rights.

I've been trying to get into more activism, and I've been

figuring out what I want to do in life. However, my family always goes out of their way to celebrate Mexican holidays like Dia De Los Muertos, etc. and we stay true to our roots and remember where we come from and who we are.