

## WIN's Lunch & Learn "The Teachers in Our Lives" Survey Responses

First and second generation immigrant students responded to survey questions as part of the recent WIN BRG Lunch & Learn event "The Teachers in Our Lives" on May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023. Their responses are below:

### **What are some challenges you face growing up in a household of parents/guardians/elders who may be unfamiliar with the US school system?**

- Immigrant parents discipline different than Americans.
- My parents didn't understand the school system. They had never gone to school above middle school so a lot of opportunities were missed due to us not being able to look for them. They weren't very involved in my school life because it was something they just didn't really get.
- Not really understanding what learning in America was like, especially elementary school.
- A lot of the time I would have to end up translating for my mom.
- Personally for me, my parents are always too busy with making a living to pay extra attention to my school life. It's also because they don't understand the American school system. I can't really ask them for help with school work, and I had to figure out everything myself from a young age.

### **What advantages do you see in having a caregiver, parent or elder who immigrated to the US?**

- Better food.
- I know two languages and don't have to feel stuck in the same country forever because I know I can always move to Mexico with my family there is the US no longer feels good for me.
- Having a larger connection to the world and other cultures.
- It's a lot easier for me to get like internships and scholarships because nowadays people want diversity.
- I think it contributed to my personality. I've been pretty independent since I was young, so I never really became reliant on anyone except myself.

### **What are some ideas to welcome immigrant students and their families to the school environment?**

- Translator.
- Have more Spanish speaking counselors, also give them more resources to be involved with their child's learning.
- Having teachers and staff that are also immigrants or children of immigrants.
- Just be friendly towards them and don't treat them differently than others.
- Accommodating to language barriers definitely. Having more diversity in school staff (though you can't really control this LOL), extra support for students going into college blind, I guess. Honestly not too sure.