

Danielle



Finding a voice as a young woman in high school is not easy. Danielle is a senior at Colorado High School Charter (CHSC) and is ready to have her voice heard. Danielle has seen a lot happen in her life. She saw her dad get taken away by immigration officers and she saw her mom lose hope. For two years Danielle woke up her siblings every morning, found them a good snack for the walk to school, made sure they had clothes, took them and picked them up from school, cleaned the house, cooked dinner, and did laundry. Eventually her aunt and grandma adopted them. School wasn't Danielle's priority during all of this. She had to advocate for the well-being of her siblings and herself. She had to step up and be the one to care for them. Since then Danielle has grown a lot. She has found her voice and she is committed to school.

Vanessa Q., a CYC post-secondary advocate at CHSC, not only works with students to pursue post-secondary goals, but she has helped many of the young women at CHSC to find their voice. With Vanessa's help, Danielle spent hours on her application to an organization called Latinas Increasing Political Strength (LIPS). Danielle hasn't stopped working since then. She is more dedicated to her school work and her future.

In addition to LIPS, Vanessa and a few of the staff members at CYC and CHSC have started a young women empowerment group. In their first group gathering they are going to write love letters to themselves. Danielle says "a lot of girls, including myself, are really hard on themselves. I'm excited to write this letter and start learning to love myself."

Danielle plans to attend college in the fall and wants to study politics and veterinary medicine. She hopes to not only stay involved with LIPS and women empowerment, but plans to take on more responsibility. "I'm so proud of Danielle" says Vanessa. "I know there is nothing but great things in store for her."