

Alumni Spotlight Interview:

Katerynne Patino (Class of 2002)

Katerynne Patino **is an immigrant from Medellin, Colombia.** She came to the United States when she was **15 years old.** Like many other immigrants, she came here with no English and no understanding of how the school system work. The first time she got here in Lowell, she went to Lowell High School for her 10th grade and **graduated from the LHS class of 2002.**

During the time she was at Lowell High, she mentioned that it helped her a lot to learn English and be a part of the community.

She learns how to advocate for herself to fight through the tough times as an immigrant in this country. During her time in school, she found one of the nicest people who helped her get through school. Dr. Maria Vejar has been her mentor, model, and support until now.



Picture Credit by Henry Marte

Even though most of the time, Katerynne has to learn how to stand up, fight and advocate for herself by joining the Hispanic & Latino club, graduating, going to Middlesex Community College, working at a bank, and working in education; she still has the support from Dr. Vejar (Who is now is the C- House Dean) in everything that she does.

Before joining Project LEARN as the Director of Operations, she worked at Bank of America for 12 years, Family Liaison at the



Stoklosa Middle School, and Bilingual Family Liaison (Spanish speaker) for Lowell Public School.

Besides working in Lowell to help support our Lowell Students and families. She also involves herself in the community by offering her time to join the Colombia Committee, a part of the Hispanic & Latino task force to bring support to our Hispanic & Latino students. She believes they can also be successful; they must keep doing what they do.

"It doesn't matter if you are a newcomer; it doesn't matter if they are growing up here. You will always have a way out. If you don't have a way, you need to make the way out."



PROJECT
LEARN

