

## **SOFIA MELGOZA (continued)**

### **What do you have to offer an employer that would separate you from other candidates?**

- I believe my unique internship experiences have allowed me to better understand issues locally, nationally, and globally and the agency I have in impacting my community in both large and small ways. Additionally, Colgate's curriculum and small class sizes have allowed me to engage with a wide variety of subjects, while reacting quickly to questions from my peers and professors. I believe my Colgate education married with my professional experience separates me from other candidates.

### **Is there a job opportunity on the horizon?**

- After graduation, I will be working at communications/PR firm Weber Shandwick as a Junior Associate on their Healthcare team. I plan to move to Chicago this fall/winter to be closer to my office and enjoy the city life!

### **Other than either of your parents, who served as a role model for you and why?**

- During my time at Colgate, Anna Rios, a professor in the Educational Studies department, has been a role model, mentor, and source of support as another Latina woman on campus.
- She has given me endless advice, on both an academic level and personal level, and has encouraged me to follow my passions in politics and writing. I am grateful for her presence during my time at Colgate and plan to keep in touch with her after graduation.

### **Best advice you ever received....**

- Do not change who you are for others! Staying true to yourself and your values is especially difficult to do in college but is a very important part in maturing and becoming who you are.

### **Is it easier or more of a challenge to express your Catholic identity at this point in your life?**

- Attending a secular institution has made my Catholic identity more important. I have had to seek out involvement in faith-based activities on campus. Because of this, my faith has become even more of a priority in my life.

### **What are your interests when not working: i.e. hobbies, interests, sports, etc.?**

- This year, I was a spin instructor for Colgate students and faculty members. Motivating others to push themselves mentally and physically has been a very rewarding experience. I hope to continue teaching in the Chicago area after graduation!

### **What will be the most difficult thing to learn once you start working?**

- Balance! At Colgate, it has been difficult to balance academic life with both of my campus jobs and activities. I know that working in a fast-paced communications firm will provide a similar challenge. I think finding a work-life balance will be difficult at first and will be learned with time.

### **How do you see yourself contributing to society?**

- I hope to channel my passions for writing and politics in a meaningful way. I would love to do something that impacts the lives of young people, as I believe they are a crucial part in making our society a better place for all.

**What motivates you?**

- I am motivated by my family. My parents, grandparents, and siblings have been a great support system, especially throughout the last four years. They have reminded me to never lose confidence in myself and to remain close to God always.

**I will consider myself a success in life if...**

- I am living a full and happy life and helping others do the same.