



My name is Mariana Hernandez, both of my kids participated in the Head Start Program here in Sulphur Springs. During one of the meetings with Mrs. Taylor, she asked if I had any plans to attend college. Obtaining a degree was not in my plans. I told her that I was not sure about it. I guess one of the main reasons was the fear of the unknown. I didn't know where to begin looking for resources. I remember telling her that I liked working with kids - I was working as an aide at that time. She suggested for me to go to the PJC campus here in Sulphur Springs. She gave me the name of the person who I needed to talk about scholarships and admissions. I couldn't believe that I was registered to begin college! I went back to Mrs. Taylor and informed her of the good news. Two years later, I graduated from PJC with an associate degree, then I transferred to Texas A & M University-Commerce where I obtained a bachelor's degree in education. In 2017, I graduated with a master's degree in bilingual education. I am the first person in my family to attend and graduate with a college degree. Currently, I am working as a 2<sup>nd</sup> grade bilingual teacher at Travis Primary. Head Start is not a program just for children to get a 'head start' in their education, it also provides services and support to families to succeed.