We want to welcome you to this focus group discussion and thank you for your interest in our study entitled “¡Más Latinos! Increasing Diversity on Ball State's Campus: Generating New Recruitment and Retention Strategies for Latino students through Focus Groups and Interviews.” The purpose of this research project is to increase the enrollment and retention of Latino students at Ball State University. Based on a series of three focus group discussions and several student interviews, we will be writing a report to be presented to the Ball State Office of Admissions and/or submitted to an academic journal. This report will aid the office of admissions and perhaps campuses across the United States in creating new recruitment and retention strategies for Latino students.

For purposes of accuracy, this focus group will be audio-recorded. While direct quotations of your statements may be transcribed and used in the report, any names mentioned in your responses will be changed to pseudonyms and your identity will remain entirely anonymous in any publication or presentation of the data. You will be provided with a sheet upon which to record any responses to discussion questions you do not wish to orally respond to in front of the group. Do not include your name on this sheet. Any response you write down may also appear in the report to the Ball State Office of Admissions and/or the publication submitted to an academic journal. The audio tapes, written responses to discussion questions, notes of key personnel, and your informed consent form will be stored in a locked filing cabinet in the office of the faculty advisor (Dr. Pak). Only the faculty advisor, primary investigator, and key personnel will have access to these documents. All materials from the study will be destroyed after the report has been presented to the office of admissions and/or submitted to an academic journal.

You are at minimal risk as you participate in this study. No greater harm or discomfort should come to you than you would routinely experience in everyday life. During your time as a participant in this study, we ask that you take other participants and their sensitivities into consideration before responding to any discussion question. We would like to stress the importance of diplomacy when discussing topics like diversity, which are closely related to topics such as racism, sexism, etc.

Should you experience any negative effects from participating in this study, counseling services are available to you through the Counseling Center at Ball State University (765-285-1736). You will be responsible or the costs of any care that is provided [note: Ball State students may have some or all of these services provided them at no cost]. It is understood that in the unlikely event that treatment is necessary as a result of your participation in this research projects that Ball State University, its agents and employees will assume whatever responsibility is required by law. To hear about your rights as a research participant, you may contact the following: Research Compliance, Sponsored Programs Office, Ball State University, Muncie, IN 47306, (765) 285-5070, irb@bsu.edu.

Your participation is voluntary and you are free to withdraw your permission to be included in this study at anytime for any reason without penalty or prejudice from any of the researchers.
Please feel free to ask the discussion leader any questions before signing this form and at any time during the study.

To be included in this study you must be a Ball State University student, you must be at least 18 years of age, and you must not be a member of Dr. Pak’s Honors 390A class. If you do not meet these requirements or no longer choose to participate in this study, we would like to thank you for your time. You may return this sheet to the discussion leader and exit the room quietly.

The focus group discussion should last approximately 1 hour. Thanks again for your participation, and let’s get started.

(Pose first question).
Focus Group Script
Sessions Two & Three

We want to welcome you to this focus group discussion and thank you for your interest in our study entitled "Más Latinos! Increasing Diversity on Ball State's Campus: Generating New Recruitment and Retention Strategies for Latino students through Focus Groups and Interviews."

The purpose of this research project is to increase the enrollment and retention of Latino students at Ball State University. Based on a series of three focus group discussions and several student interviews, we will be writing a report to be presented to the Ball State Office of Admissions and/or submitted to an academic journal. This report will aid the office of admissions and perhaps campuses across the United States in creating new recruitment and retention strategies for Latino students.

For purposes of accuracy, this focus group will be audio-recorded. While direct quotations of your statements may be transcribed and used in the report, any names mentioned in your responses will be changed to pseudonyms and your identity will remain entirely anonymous in any publication or presentation of the data. You will be provided with a sheet upon which to record any responses to discussion questions you do not wish to orally respond to in front of the group. Do not include your name on this sheet. Any response you write down may also appear in the report to the Ball State Office of Admissions and/or the publication submitted to an academic journal. The audio tapes, written responses to discussion questions, notes of key personnel, and your informed consent form will be stored in a locked filing cabinet in the office of the faculty advisor (Dr. Pak). Only the faculty advisor, primary investigator, and key personnel will have access to these documents. All materials from the study will be destroyed after the report has been presented to the office of admissions and/or submitted to an academic journal.

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Should you experience any negative effects from participating in this study, counseling services are available to you through the Counseling Center at Ball State University (765-285-1736). You will be responsible or the costs of any care that is provided [note: Ball State students may have some or all of these services provided them at no cost]. It is understood that in the unlikely event that treatment is necessary as a result of your participation in this research projects that Ball State University, its agents and employees will assume whatever responsibility is required by law. To hear about your rights as a research participant, you may contact the following: Research Compliance, Sponsored Programs Office, Ball State University, Muncie, IN 47306, (765) 285-5070, irb@bsu.edu.

Your participation is voluntary and you are free to withdraw your permission to be included in this study at anytime for any reason without penalty or prejudice from any of the researchers.
Please feel free to ask the discussion leader any questions before signing this form and at any time during the study.

To be included in this study you must be at least 18 years of age, you must not be a member of Dr. Pak's Honors 390A class, and you must be on Latino/Hispanic Descent or have lived or worked closely with the Latino community. If you do not meet these requirements or no longer choose to participate in this study, we would like to thank you for your time. You may return this sheet to the discussion leader and exit the room quietly.

The focus group discussion should last approximately 1 hour. Thanks again for your participation, and let's get started.

(Pose first question).
Introductory Letter
Focus Group Participants

Thank you for your interest in our study entitled "¡Más Latinos! Increasing Diversity on Ball State's Campus: Generating New Recruitment and Retention Strategies for Latino students through Focus Groups and Interviews." The purpose of this research project is to increase the enrollment and retention of Latino students at Ball State University. Based on a series of three focus group discussions and several student interviews, we will be writing a report to be presented to the Ball State Office of Admissions and/or submitted to an academic journal or newspaper publication. This report will aid the office of admissions and perhaps campuses across the United States in creating new recruitment and retention strategies for Latino students.

For purposes of accuracy, this focus group discussion will be audio-recorded. While direct quotations of your statements may be transcribed and used in the report, any names mentioned in your responses will be changed to pseudonyms and your identity will remain entirely anonymous in any publication or presentation of the data. The audiotape and typewritten transcriptions of the group discussion will be stored in a locked filing cabinet in the office of the faculty advisor (Dr. Pak). Only the faculty advisor, primary investigator, and key personnel will have access to these documents. All materials from the study will be destroyed after the report has been presented to the office of admissions and/or submitted to an academic journal or newspaper publication.

You will experience no foreseeable risk as you participate in this study. No greater harm or discomfort should come to you than you would routinely experience in everyday life. For questions about your rights as a research participant, you may contact the Coordinator of Research Compliance, Sponsored Programs Office, Ball State University, Muncie, IN 47306, (765) 285-5070, irb@bsu.edu.

Your participation is voluntary and you are free to withdraw your permission to be included in this study at anytime for any reason without penalty or prejudice from any of the researchers. If you wish to withdraw your participation during the focus group discussion, simply tell one of the key personnel you would like to do so and exit the room quietly. In the event of withdrawn participation, any responses given prior to withdrawal can be expunged from the focus group transcript and will not be included as data at the request of the former participant. Please feel free to ask the discussion leader any questions before or at any time during the study.

To be included in this study you must be at least 18 years of age, and you must not be a member of Dr. Pak’s Honors 390A class. If you do not meet these requirements or no longer choose to participate in this study, we would like to thank you for your time. The focus group discussion should last approximately 1 hour.

Thanks again for your participation,

Fay Gammon, Undergraduate Honors Fellow
Psychology, Spanish, Interpersonal Relations
Ball State University
Email: fegammon@bsu.edu

Dr. Chin-Sook Pak
Modern Languages & Classics
Ball State University
Email: cpak@bsu.edu
Demographic Form

We would like to know a little bit more about who came out to our focus group.

I am _____ years of age.

My gender is  Male   Female

My class year is
  — Freshmen
  — Sophomore
  — Junior
  — Senior
  — Grad Student
  — Not Seeking Degree or N/A

My race/ethnicity is (Circle all that apply)
  — Asian (American)
  — Black or African (American)
  — Hispanic/Latino (American)
  — European (American) ; Caucasian
  — Middle Eastern (American)
  — Native American or Alaska Native
  — Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
Compiled List of Discussion Questions Proposed to the IRB

1) The state of diversity on Ball State’s campus
   1) What is your definition of diversity?
   2) Is Ball State a diverse campus? Is Ball State a unified campus?
   3) Do you believe Ball State supports diversity/unity? If not, why? If so, why?
   4) How do you feel about Ball State’s efforts to diversify/unify the student body?
   5) What kind of diversity-related programs/activities do you participate in on campus?
   6) Do you feel that you are well informed about the multicultural activities and programs the university provides? How do you hear about these activities? If you don’t, how would you like to be informed?
   7) Do you think Ball State offers enough opportunities for students to learn about other cultures and be a part of an intercultural community?
   8) If you could invent one new service that Ball State could create to facilitate the interaction among diverse groups of students, what would it be?

2) The unique challenges for and contributions of Latino students
   1) Why do you think there not more Latinos in higher education?
   2) Are there ways that Latino culture is different from other cultures that make it more difficult for Latino youth to pursue higher education (oral culture, tight-knit families, girls required to work at home)?
   3) Is a Latino student’s educational experience the same or different from that of the majority? If different, how?
   4) Do you feel that universities and colleges communicate well with Latino youth and their parents about the college application process? If yes, why? If not, why?
   5) What could universities do to improve the relationship between the institution and the Latino community?
   6) Why and how would BSU and institutions of higher education benefit from having a greater Latino presence on campus?

3) Ideas for creating culturally sensitive and effective programs to assist with the recruitment and retention of Latino students.
   1) Do you feel welcome at Ball State University? If so, why? If not, why?
   2) How did you make the decision to come to Ball State?
   3) Are/were you aware of the scholarships offered to minorities through Ball State?
   4) Do you remember being admitted to Ball State? How was the process for you? Were there any difficulties? Did the faculty/staff address these issues? If so, how?
   5) How about your parents? Were they involved in your admissions process? Did they have any concerns/questions? How were they addressed?
   6) Is there anything you wish you would have known while going through the admissions process?
   7) What was the biggest challenge during the application and enrollment process?
8) As a Latino, what has been the biggest challenge for you since coming to Ball State?
9) When you have difficulties with schoolwork or campus life in general, do you have somewhere/someone to turn to for assistance? Was this option effective in helping solve your problem?
10) If you could invent one new service that Ball State would have for Latino students what would it be?
Sample Recruitment Email

Dear Student,

Do you have an interest in increasing diversity at Ball State and have ideas about how our school can better recruit and retain Latino students? Come share your opinions with us and help us to brainstorm new ideas for Ball State to become a more inclusive campus community.

Dr. Pak and her Honors 390A class have designed a three-part focus group research study called “¡Más Latinos! Increasing Diversity on Ball State’s Campus: Generating New Recruitment and Retention Strategies for Latino students through Focus Groups and Interviews,” and we’d love to have you as a participant! The topics include:

1) The state of diversity on Ball State’s campus
2) The unique challenges for and contributions of Latino students
3) Specific ideas for creating culturally sensitive and effective recruitment and retention strategies for Latino students.

And the dates are:

Focus Group One -- Wednesday, February 25\textsuperscript{th}, 2009 @ 7:00pm
Focus Group Two – Wednesday, March 4\textsuperscript{th}, 2009 @ 7:00pm
Focus Group Three – Wednesday, March 18\textsuperscript{th}, 2009 @ 7:00pm

Come to only one or to all three! We hope to see you there!

Fay Gammon
Undergraduate Honors Fellow
Psychology, Spanish, Interpersonal Relations
Ball State University
Sample Oral Invitation

Hi, my name is ___ ___________ and I would like to invite you to be a participant in a three-part focus group research study called "¡Más Latinos! Increasing Diversity on Ball State's Campus: Generating New Recruitment and Retention Strategies for Latino students through Focus Groups and Interviews," and we’d love to have you as a participant! The topics include:

1) The state of diversity on Ball State’s campus
2) The unique challenges for and contributions of Latino students
3) Specific ideas for creating culturally sensitive and effective recruitment and retention strategies for Latino students.

And the dates are:

Focus Group One – Wednesday, February 18th, 2009 @ 7:00pm
Focus Group Two – Wednesday, March 4th, 2009 @ 7:00pm
Focus Group Three – Wednesday, March 18th, 2009 @7:00pm

Come to only one or to all three! We hope to see you there!
Más Latinos!
Examining Diversity at Ball State University

Have an interest in increasing diversity at BSU, or ideas about how the university can better recruit and retain students of diverse backgrounds?

Come share your opinions with us and brainstorm new ideas for helping Ball State to become a more inclusive campus community.

Where: Bracken Library Room 225 (Forum Room)
When: Wednesday, February 25 from 7PM-8:30PM

Participation space is limited. If you are interested in participating in this discussion or would like more information, please contact:

Fay Gammon – fegammon@bsu.edu

To ensure your participation, please contact by Tuesday, February 24.
Appendix II

Compiled List of Actual Discussion Questions Posed at Focus Groups

1) The state of diversity on Ball State’s campus.

1. What is your definition of diversity?
2. Is the presence of diversity important on a college campus? Why or why not?
3. How do you see Ball State supporting or not supporting diversity? How do you feel about Ball State’s efforts to diversify/unify the student body?
4. What kind of diversity-related programs/activities do you participate in on campus? What aspects of these do you like/dislike?
5. When you think about the campus organizations you are affiliated with, do you notice diversity within the groups?
6. Discuss a personal example of an opportunity you had to interact with a person who was in some way different from you through a BSU organization/event. What did you enjoy about this experience or what would you change?
7. If you could invent one new service that Ball State could create to facilitate the interaction among diverse groups of students, what would it be?
8. Do you feel well informed about the multicultural activities and programs that university provides? How could the university better inform students about what is happening on campus?
9. How big a factor was diversity in choosing Ball State as the college you would attend?

2) The unique challenges for and contributions of Latino students.

1. Why and how would BSU and institutions of higher education benefit from having a greater Latino presence on campus?
2. What accounts for the under-representation of Latino students in higher education?
3. In what ways is Latino culture is different from other cultures that might make it more difficult for Latino youth to pursue higher education?
4. Talk about your application/decision process in coming to Ball State. What is an easy or difficult transition? What could have made it more comfortable?
5. How could Ball State change/what could it have offered to make your decision to come here an easier one?
6. How do Latino parents influence/play into the college process?
7. How do universities and colleges communicate well with or communicate poorly with Latino youth and their parents about the college application process?
8. What could universities do to improve the relationship between the institution and the Latino community?
3) Creating new programs to recruit and retain Latino students.

1. Do you feel welcome at Ball State University? If so, why? If not, why?
2. Do you remember applying and being admitted to Ball State? How was the process for you? Were there any difficulties? Did the faculty/staff address these issues? If so, how?
3. Were you aware of the scholarships Ball State offers specifically to minority students? If yes, how did you find out about them?
4. Is there anything you wish you would have known while going through the admissions process?
5. How were your parents involved in your admissions process? Did they have any concerns/questions? How were they addressed?
6. What could universities do to improve the relationship between the institution and the Latino students and their families?
7. Talk about your experience on campus during your first few months at Ball State. Was leaving home an easy or difficult transition to make? What could have made it more comfortable?
8. When you have difficulties with schoolwork or campus life in general, do you have somewhere/someone to turn to for assistance? Was this option effective in helping solve your problem?
9. If you could invent one new service that Ball State would have for Latino students what would it be?
Appendix III

Focus Group Transcripts

Focus Group #1 “What is Diversity?” - Full Transcription

- FAY: Now we are just going to begin. So the first question is just to open us up, pretty general, “What is your personal definition of diversity? What does that term mean to you?”

- It could be absolutely anything that makes you different than everyone else...I have brown hair, you have blonde hair...it’s diversity...

- My definition of diversity is learning about different cultures...not just your own...it’s going together learning about different cultures and not being biased about the others and living together without those racial slurs and barriers.

- It could be cultures, traditions, religions...anything...

- Yea...all that.

- It’s that acceptance that kind of brings everybody together... that they are different, but there are also similarities that everybody shares.

- FAY: So, it is kind of like yes, there’s differences between everyone, but it’s a similarity thing that also brings people together... Does anyone have anything else to say about that question? Then we’ll move onto the next one. Is the presence of diversity important on a college campus, why or why not?

- I think that it is because it brings people...it exposes people to other different kinds of people and it prepares them to be exposed to them in the real world and not just college

- I absolutely agree, I think that diversity is very important on college campuses because somebody might have grown up in an all white town or in an all black town, and that’s all they know, so when you come to campus you need those different viewpoints and you need those different people that have lived...they have just experienced different things than you have to kind of bring in and make yourself a more well rounded person

- I think that it is important for there to be diversity on a college campus because the more diverse the more other people of those diversity groups see that it is OK to come to college and they can do it too...so it’s role models

- One of my favorite things about diversity is the food because I think that eating foods from different cultures and backgrounds is probably one of my favorite things to do. So, with different diverse people and different backgrounds comes different food...

- Laughs
• And the dancing

• We just have to bring people with different ideas and perspectives how things work and how the world works so it is helpful. So that we cannot just be not only in our own culture, to have only the view of our culture, also that we can develop other ideas as a person and knowledge

• To me diversity is a good reflection of our world in general, because once you have diversity you have different cultures and different traditions and the more people different people see the more they are going to accept other cultures and acceptance leads to celebration of different cultures...uniqueness

• I think that it is good as we are moving toward more globalization if you have already met people from a lot of different cultures you can understand if you have to work with them later you can understand where everyone is coming from

• Diversity also just helps to break barriers; usually what I see on campus is white people with white people and black people with black people kind of just socializing with themselves. But if we added more diversity on campus people will see that these people, well not these people, but this person is the same as us and have kind of, sort of experienced the same things that we’ve been through, just because we are different colors doesn’t mean that we are, so diversity is a really important thing on campus

• I think that it kind of break stereotypes, because people, like he mentioned, some people come from little towns where they weren’t exposed to all of this diversity with religion, with ethnic background, and it breaks those stereotypes... for example some people have that image that a “Mexicano” “Mexican” is just that person that mows the lawns, just a hardworking person, and the girls all they are about is these sexy Latinas who are all about inducing, and it is not like that, we do have brains too. So, I believe that we can fix those stereotypes and when they are able to see the wider picture, I guess, and they can get a better picture that there is diversity within our group as well. And, I mean, this is college, you come here to broaden your views on things and just become well-rounded. And I mean, in high school that is where I saw the little groups and here I believe that, I mean we lack diversity, but overall I believe that people have become more perceptive to it, more accepting because of the fact...No go ahead...

• And then once you are around the diversity, you get to see that there is even diversity within the diversity... so even though we’re all...like if we could all be Latinos we all have different cultures that go back with it and different religions and a whole mess of diversity within even like a small subculture...

• FAY: That was great...is there anything else on that one? “How do you see Ball State specifically supporting or not supporting diversity?” And then a follow-up question is, “How do you feel about Ball State’s efforts to diversify/unify the student body?”

• I think diversity...I mean I think that they are trying to support it, but I think that to me diversity should like come naturally...cause like
• [Break in Recording]

• You can identify...that's the thing...you can identify with people...

• I can identify with people; you can't just force different cultures together...

• It has to happen naturally...

• What I think is Ball State is doing a great job...

• [Break in Recording]

• As you know as the president of LSU I get all these emails from Admissions and from the club, from all of these other organizations that want us to come and present and come and help bring more awareness of this and help high school students come, so I think that we have been contacted a lot so I feel that they are trying because they are approaching us about it and not expecting us to do it...

• I think that from an employee standpoint I have specific diversity initiatives that I have to meet every semester and I think that is a positive, I do, I love diversity; it's a big hot...I just love it...., it is so quiet in here, nobody is laughing....but it's a good thing that people who are really interested in diversity are promoting it ...as an employee it is an initiative that we have to focus on and it’s not just, “This is what diversity is”...our job is to help our residents to be comfortable enough to...say one of my residents wanted to go to BSA, but they weren’t comfortable, then it’s my job to help them get comfortable...or something like that

• FAY: Are you an RA?

• Yes, yes

• I think Ball State has actually been a really big supporter of diversity as well recently ...I step foot on campus for the first time in 2004 and since then the amount of diverse students that I have seen with different backgrounds has increased so much, I mean just being able to walk down McKinley and think that you are the only minority on campus to at least seeing some other minorities, we’ve come a long way as far as the university is concerned. I think also the way the university is funding organizations such as LSU, AASA, BSA, Spectrum, and even the Multicultural Center...I think that that alone shows the importance that they put on diversity and helping those communities to put more programs together so that they can continue and educate the rest of the university in that way.

• I think Ball State does an excellent job....Ball State has the largest population of wheelchair user, I know that a lot of people think of diversity as just ethnicity but, it’s one of the most accessible campuses in Indiana. It is the most accessible, so I think something like that is important because they want to go to college just as much as anyone else.

• FAY: So, overall people sound pleased with the efforts of the university.
• I think that there needs to be more effort still. They are doing a good job, it's a good start, but there is still a long race ahead of you.

• So we are happy where it is right now, but that is with the expectation that the averages are going to increase.

• FAY: I think further questions will get into "What do you want?"

• As a new student to the campus I think that the diversity is pretty good, but they should not focus just on bringing people. They also should focus on getting to know these people and know about their backgrounds, because they are bringing...there's too many people from every part of the world, but sometimes the people in admissions don't understand where they are coming from and issues that we are bringing with us. So, more understanding of the cultures that are coming in.

• Help make connections.

• FAY: "What kind of diversity related programs or activities do you participate in on campus now, and what aspects of these do you like or dislike?"

• Well, you guys know! LSU

• [Break in Recording]

• I'm a member of LSU, but as well, I helped bring over the first Latino fraternity which is Phi Ota Alpha. First of all, a group of us came together and saw that there were black fraternities, white fraternities, sororities, but there wasn't a Hispanic fraternity. So we got together and weren't seeing that happening, so... We also want to help, you know, bring other students in, Hispanic students, as well, and help the graduation level for Hispanic students also to increase, 'cause that's one of our missions at the fraternity, and learn more about ourselves, our culture. It's very important. And to support not just the Latino community, but all other minority orientations. Like, I'm also part of AASA (Asian American Student Association). I'm the treasurer of AASA, so...It's really a big key to bring us together. It's very important.

• FAY: Is there anything you would change...I guess I have, "What do you like, and what do you dislike?" I guess, some of you, being on the exec. is there anything you would change about the way Ball State handles the organization or how it runs? Is that good or...?

• It'd be kinda nice. Because, we all have to check what we are when we apply. We don't have to, but you can check like "Hispanic American" or "Caucasian". I think it'd be a good thing for Ball State to send an outreach to the children...excuse me, the residents *laughter* or students. Sorry...sorry. I'm an education major and they're children I'm usually talking to. But check maybe, send an outreach letter "Oh you checked 'Hispanic' or 'Latino'". Maybe, "These are the things we offer specifically for this thing". Because I know a lot of people don't even know we have LSU.
• But at the same time make sure that they'd know that they are still welcome to the other ones, because we...

• I think people take it offensively though. Some people take it offensively, and that's so sad. Because, I used to work at Old Navy and, because I spoke Spanish, they wanted me to approach the people, you know, speaking Spanish. As like, to make them more comfortable, you know? Well I did that and *laughs*. This one time, someone was like, you know, they looked at me, and, I heard them speaking Spanish, and then I approached them “¡Hola, cómo estás?”, you know. “We have this, we have this 30% off”, da da da. “If you buy this off, you get the credit card”. Anyway, they took it so offensively, like, “Why do you assume”, you know, like “Why do you assume?” So, I think, targeting them, maybe, I don't know... Because, they should know about the other clubs and other organizations. But it's tough...

• It's a fine line. Maybe if you targeted everybody

• Maybe if they gave us exec. members a list, and then we can go up to them

• I think that might be encroaching on, like, rights

• On rights...on privacy?

• Yeah.

• Yeah.

• They actually do give us...they give us a list of the freshmen who check that they’re interested in our organization.

• That’s good

• So I mean, that’s a step, but...

• Maybe a little survey, or something, in the beginning...“Are you interested in being in organizations?” And if yes, there’s a list of, like, “Which ones are you interested in?” And if yes, then they can give us a list of those people. Do they do it that way, or how, ‘cause...I don’t...I have not seen....

• I think it’s...

• Like you guys can’t get a list of all the Hispanic people from admissions?

• I don’t know.

• There’s a lot of privacy...

• Privacy issues

• Yeah
• With all that. I mean, it’d be a good concept, to invite people to come to this thing, or see what they...

• Yeah, just like invite them through the Webmail. They don’t necessarily have to come, but they’ll know about it.

• I think that’s a good idea, ‘cause I’m a freshman, and I didn’t even know about LSU.

• When I applied, I didn’t know about...like, my cousin told me

• Yeah, I heard it through word of mouth.

• Yeah, I didn’t come until orientation was...when I heard about LSU and BSA and everything. But they didn’t...they didn’t bring Ball State up there. The only thing you heard about it was architect, TCOM, and nursing. And that’s the only thing you heard about Ball State. So unless you were really interested in those things, it was like, “Oh I’ll go to Perdue” or stay home or whatever.

• I think there’s a lot of information thrown at you when you first come to this school. And maybe, an e-mail might be like “Oh...delete!””, because you get so many e-mails on the first day, that it’s just kind of...when do you approach them? When, if you are given this information, when would we want to be able to approach them? Or is it our responsibility to approach them?

• Our responsibility as a club...

• Well you know how they go to high schools and that they put up their booth and, they only have applications for the school and they have school information, but they don’t really, in that step, they don’t engage us to look for a club or being involved after we come to this school. So...give more information...kind of, that stuff

• The earlier the better...

• I think Ball State should give more scholarships for minorities...

• Yes

• Yeah

• I wish I had one...

• To help minority students to go to Ball State. So that’s probably a big plus if they did that.

• That’s exactly why they’re not going to school. I mean, they might have average grades, in the top 5%...

• Especially right now, during this economic turndown, is when people are going to need help to get through school
And staying in school...

FAY: Yeah, we have talked to a guy from admissions, and I know they have National Hispanic Scholar scholarships, but that's only if you're like, top top in your class. And, that's not for everyone.

Or if you're extremely poor. Well not poor, but not...make $35000 or less, as a family

Lower SES

Scholarships for first generation college students that are Latino or black

I think IU has...one of my friends got a free ride because he was the first one to go to college in his family.

At IU?

I think so, that's what he did. They gave him a lot of money to go there.

TEAH: There's a lot of those. And it doesn't necessarily...some of those aren't necessarily based on your ethnicity, either. It's just if you are the first person to go to ...

ALL: *mumbles*

[Break In Recording....]

FAY: The reason we put that question in there is just because some people might think "Oh, BSA. I can't go to BSA if I'm not black", or something like that. You know? [...] So we wanted to see from you guys, is there diversity within that, or...?

I'm pretty satisfied with the diversity in my organization, [...] especially on our exec. board. We got Latino people, we got a black person, and we got a white person. I think our target is pretty much everybody, because it's pretty hard to find Asian students here on campus. So most of the time I just invite everybody. Especially 'cause we're in the library, so I just grab people who are sitting around.

I think that could be a problem as well, because people come in thinking "Latino Student Union...I'm gonna learn about the culture, I'm gonna learn about this and that", and some of us don't speak Spanish. Which is not a problem, but they expect us to learn, to know Spanish, or know how to dance, or be so ethnically...so in tune with our Latino side. A lot of people, I think half of our LSU, probably, isn't Latino, or don't speak Spanish. And I think as a group, we need to work on bringing that up more. You know, even if we're not Latino...educating.

FAY: On the next page, number six, says "Discuss a personal example of an opportunity you had to interact with a person who was in some way different from you through a BSU organization or event. What did you enjoy about this
experience, or what, perhaps, might you change?" This one might take a little thought...

- I can’t think of a specific event that somebody brought to me. It was always I had to go out and search for that interaction. Maybe my RA did it when I was a freshman, but, it wasn’t...I don’t remember...I don’t think she did. ‘Cause not everybody does it. I really can’t think of an event where you... “We’re gonna go have a mixer”. There’s not really those type of events, I don’t feel like.

- Well, for example, usually when you see a person a lot, you usually prejudge them before you know them. So then, when you get to see them in one of the organizations you go to, and you think they’re going to act a certain way or whatever. But then when you really get to know them through these organizations for who they really are, that kind of just blows that out of the water. You get to know the real person. So that’s something that the organization actually helped, to bring people together and not necessarily judge people before you get to know them. So I would have to say...I’ve personally seen this personally. I’ve prejudged people before getting to know them, and in these organizations I’ve met them, and I’ve seen the true side to them, and they’re really not the way I thought them to be. So that’s a big plus.

- Just today, a student and I sat on a panel, and we talked about diversity and what it meant to us to be an American, but coming from a diverse background. But one of the members in the audience, she sat right back over there, and she, she was from Russia. And so, we got to interact with her. At first, her questions could have come off as little bit, not harsh, but kind of hostile, like a hostile audience. But she really wanted to know...She wanted to know specific questions, specific things...what it was about Americans that made us think that...She was talking about the stereotypical American, and spending a lot and buying everything and being a huge consumer. And she was saying, was that kind of pride, to be an American, was that interfering in our reasoning, or our decisions that we made. And kind of...how would you say? Just kind of...interfering in the way we thought. “Just be an American”, and, “just be a consumer person,” and just...I don’t know. It was just a really interesting experience.

- She brought up a lot of good views

- Yeah, she brought a lot of views that necessarily we wouldn’t really think of, since we’re all in one kind of mindset: We’re all in America, and I mean, we kind of are around people that have kind of the same mentality and the same thoughts about things, for the most part. So seeing somebody coming from the other direction, and question some of the things we just kind of took for granted. I think that was a really good experience. So I would strongly advocate, and we actually talked about this a little bit after, but I would strongly advocate even more connections between the domestic students here and the foreign students. Just so that they can see. I mean, as a Latino, coming from the United States, I obviously share some similar traits, but somebody else, from Peru, or from Argentina, Spain, Europe. I mean they, they are going to have completely different ideologies of what it is to be that person from their country.
• Just thinking of religious diversity, I know last year there was an event where different Christian groups came together in Pruis, and there was a guest speaker, and it was...I thought it was awesome. Just to see other groups that...we all have something in common, but we were all really diverse. If you just looked around the room, you could tell that we didn’t all come from the same background, or whatever. But I thought it was really good just to see those other people. We all share the same values, but we weren’t interacting on a day to day basis type of thing. So I think more of that would be good. I loved it. I got a lot out of it.

• I’ve always known Arabic and Muslim people, but I’ve never gotten to a mosque before I came to Ball State, so it was the first time for me to go to a mosque. So I thought it was pretty interesting to just find out about a different religion up close, and I enjoyed it a lot. I also noticed that the member of the mosque, they embraced us and they were happy to teach and talk about their religion without thinking bad about our religion.

• I work for Ball State transportation and I drive the handicapped bus. I didn't really interact with handicapped kids before, but just listening to their stories and where they’ve come from and just good interaction with them and just seeing their views. I know a couple of them are really hardcore republicans and you heard their views on the elections and its just good change to hear people’s views, and what their needs are. The kind of stuff we take for granted, they have to kind of work towards...I know a lot of the kids in wheelchairs they don't get out of their wheelchairs until they go to sleep at night so a lot of them have to sleep on their desks and stuff. You kind of...not feel sorry for them but you kind of get where they’re coming from and you appreciate what you have by more that... what they don’t

• You empathize

• Yeah

• Kind of going along with that you can totally see, you need to understand because you could say, “Oh this person thinks this,” or, “this person believes that”...but not to kind of see the steps that lead up to that, like its deeper than just, “Oh I’m a republican,” and that’s just it. There’s reasons and there’s things you can see about people and why they made those choices for themselves and why they end up that way so I think that’s important to also consider

• FAY: Everyone good on that one? The next question, it's a good one. The breadwinner question. If you could invent one new service that Ball State could create to facilitate interaction among diverse groups of students, what would it be? It doesn’t necessarily have to be an event, just something...some sort of idea.

• Well you know how they have freshman connections where they force you to read the book?

• Laughs
They should have diversity connections or something like that that they force the freshmen...well not force ...but require...

Encourage...encourage strongly

...them to go to so that way they can have an open mind. 'Cause when you come to college, you have to have an open mind. So they should have something like freshman connections, but it should be based around diversity, that they have to go through during that first week. They should make it part of the freshman welcome week

Not to add to the MA’s jobs, ‘cause they do a fantastic job, but I think that campus should promote their events a little bit more, because the MA’s do three programs a semester, three large programs, but most people don’t hear about it. So maybe making one of them required like the first one require for freshman to go to. That would be able to utilize the MA’s 'cause that’s their job, multicultural advisors, so if you utilize them more, then maybe we wouldn’t have to create some big new thing.

So making a requirement...

Just for one MA program for like... English 103

But for that, if you're making it a requirement it tends, with people “Oh you’re forcing me to do this, I won’t do it,” so there’s this, I don’t know

I think if you’re going to have a lot of required programs like the pep rally then you should have something, ’cause they’re gonna have required programs. Maybe making it an MA program, something useful for them.

Make it “kind of” required

None of its technically required, you can not go to it and nothing is going to happen to you. They just say “required” so people go. You don't have to go to any of that stuff.

Laughs

It's true. You're all not freshmen. You never really had to go.

Laughs

Don't tell freshmen that...’cause everybody's not past welcome week. That stuffs...technically...You're all adults. You don't technically have to go to that stuff.

I know this has been talked about by a bunch of groups but I think we need a better Multicultural Center, one where we can actually all be together in it. Even if we’re not under the Multicultural Center but have our separate entity on top of it where we could have meetings and where we actually could hang out because the Multicultural Center now is too small we can’t, like LSU for example, cannot comfortably fit our meeting in there. If we do that’s...its in an awkward way and people are facing away from each
other and its just not... its not functional for our purposes. So that’s a huge reason I think why we don’t use it as much

- And the other reason we don’t use it is ‘cause we’re not that tied together. We have our own buildings and if they brought us together that would kind of facilitate us talking to each other, working with each other...different programs, all that stuff. We are student life and multicultural and it’s just hard for us to connect.

- As an example, “La Casa” at IU works pretty well, a lot of people go there and research... for events.

- Is it kind of like the multicultural...house?

- It’s a house.

- So you guys are basically talking about all multicultural organizations being under just... there?

- Kind of like a diversity building

- A multicultural center, center of everybody

- Not a house

- 

- Laughs

- Not a house by the parking garage

- 

- Laughs

- And that can include the fraternities and sororities...all of them

- Or like an organizational house, where everybody's based out of... but I think that that, until we get something that is functional that all the organizations can use, I don’t think that we’re going to see the connections that you would see if we had one

- On Monday we had a lunch with *******, the exec. members did, and she explained that a few years ago the Multicultural Center and the student groups, the organizations groups, were together, and the student group...the student organizations got funding from the Multicultural Center ...so the problem there was that the Multicultural Center only had a certain amount and the groups had to fight for that, you see what I’m saying? We didn’t get funded right away...like we as a group, we get funded right away depending on our programs and our numbers...what we do...so we get funding automatically. So if they were to do this new organizational house everyone would still have their own identity, but of course just work together. It just helps being in the same building.

- It needs to be large enough to hold a BSA meeting or an LSU meeting because... we could probably even have it be just a big meeting room like this, and it would be more functional than the Multicultural Center
- And going along with that, it'd be more permanent, because right now we skip around the Student Center, and if something big comes in, we’ll get booted out of our room and it will be like “Oh, well you're meeting in this tiny room” And we can't all fit...people are standing...so...

- **FAY: So we have Multicultural Center. Is there anything you guys can think of, as an event, that you would like to see, where groups mix..?**

- I think the MA program, the fair outside, I think that could have gotten more. I mean that was an excellent way for people to interact with different groups. It was just... maybe because of the weather and maybe not a lot of people heard about it

- **FAY: So promotion sounds like an issue.**

- I think big things like games are promoted but... I know games are obviously...sporting events are really important, but nothing...nothing else...it all gets like promoted in that one big email where there’s ten different things, and not a lot of people read that. The student life email that’s sent out...

- **TEAH: “Events this week...”**

- You know what I’d love to see? Have you guys ever been to “Taste of Chicago” by chance? You know how big that is, with all those stands? Well it doesn’t have to be based on foods, but something that big. If it could be that big...like a big carnival.

- Like the activity fair?

- The activity fair?

- **FAY: They have that in the library...**

- Well yeah, in the library, but outside!

- **FAY: Ok**

- Kind of like...we had a fiesta on the green and that was so successful. You bring music, and you bring food, people come. And if it was all along McKinley...it could be stands all alongside of McKinley, and block it off, kind of like a big block party?

- BSU block party?

- Yeah, that'd be cool

- Yeah and then Ball State could be known for that...like “Oh, yeah, that’s the school that has that”...What could we call it... “Taste of Culture”

- BSU Block Party

- Taste of Chicago
• Taste McKinley

• **Laughs**

• You could probably get the people who do Late Nite to sponsor that, or something. At the beginning of the year...like and event that advertises itself. I want congratulate them on that event, the Fiesta on the Green, people were like “Oh there’s music, there’s food, OK let me go over there.”

• And that honestly was kind of last minute, but it still successful

• You didn’t even need to advertise

• **FAY: Just be loud, and people will come**

• We could have a dance corner, martial arts...I don’t know what there is

• **Laughs**

• If you could step it down the area of McKinley. Its not like just LSU has a big area and then BSA has a big area and etc. has a big area, then people...they have to walk through it, so they'll be like “Oh”...

• Its a main road...

• "Oh I like that music", or “I like that food” and they can kind of see the organizations in a broader sense.

• That should be at the beginning of the year, too.

• Yeah

• **FAY: 'Cause then it could be a way for the organizations to introduce themselves, too**

• And that’s when freshmen are walking around trying to find their classes... You know, they're like...”Lets...”, scoping out the place...

• **Laughs**

• ...That’s IT! That's the thing to do.

• And dancing does... it’s a good ice breaker for people meet each other

• 'Cause everyone stands together. No one stands out...alone...

• I wouldn’t say a program, but this is something I was thinking about in my fraternity but it might work on a bigger scale. If Ball State targeted minority high school students more junior and senior kids, it would just be for minority kids, and that's it. They come here...and
•  *Laughs*

•  ...[indiscernible]...So that would be the target. Bring them over and have them witness the different organizations we have them. Have them out to eat, not only show them the organizations, but school life...meet up with students, the regular day for a student studying here at Ball State.

•  ...Shadow...juniors and seniors in high school?

•  Yeah

•  It would be like a welcome week.

•  That’s a really good idea.

•  Yeah.

•  But only for like a day...

•  I know when I went to visit Howard University in D.C....they had a program like that where they took all the kids from like Michigan to spend time with the college students ...go to classes with them... and we should do something like that here like with diversity kids. I mean you could spend time going to classes-see how a college student lives and even the weekends. You know, I mean…

•  *Laughs*

•  They would probably send them away. You get here Monday, you leave on Thursday.

•  You are going to battle issues with Latino students dropping out, which there is a big problem with that, you need to make sure that they feel comfortable in their own skin once they get on college campuses. I know LSU...personally several people have talked to me and said, “I probably would have dropped out if it weren’t for you guys”. They really utilize our organization. I know aside from us... I know other students are probably going through the same thing. So they just need something to kind of ground them to the university so they feel like they are part of it and not an outsider.

•  FAY: I think we covered number eight. Number eight is just about promoting. If you guys have anything to add to number eight, you can write it down. It’s like “How well informed do you feel, how could you be better informed” and we talked about that a little bit.

•  FAY: And then the last question was just “How big a factor was diversity in choosing Ball State?” Was that like something like “Oh Ball State known for its diversity that’s where I’m going to go.”

•  I wanted to go to a school that was more diverse but everything else got me to come here. Like the traveling abroad opportunities, like the nursing program. The campus itself was beautiful... the middle sized school. All that brought me here, but the one thing I was
debating was whether or not I wanted to come here because of that issue—diversity. I mean, I felt that I wanted to go to college to experience all these things I hadn’t because I went to a school that was predominantly white and I was just so interested in meeting Muslims, Asians. I always had this image of us having really, really... diverse little group of friends. That’s one thing that kinda of made me think twice.

• **FAY:** So had Ball State not offered the other things to have you come here that might have been a deal breaker for you?

• Probably cause it’s all the way over here (location).

• Definitely, I only came here for architecture. I didn’t really consider the multiculturalism.

• I did see LSU. I circled it, I was like I want to be there, go to the meeting

• I didn’t actually join LSU until after two years of college. I wasn’t really aware of it. I kind of did my own thing the first couple years of college. Yeah it wasn’t too big of a deal for me, but if it wasn’t for architecture, I wouldn’t have come.

• **FAY:** So you have your architecture and nursing...

• Not anymore. I dropped it.

• **FAY:** Not anymore? Well, that’s what brought you here. Those are two programs that Ball State is obviously known for. Say you were choosing between a school that has great programs for you, which is Ball State, but if that was flip flopped and what like, “Oh we have mediocre programs but this school has great diversity.” Would you maybe have chose that?

• So, just for the social aspect?

• **FAY:** Is is like “majors first”, or...

• ...like education?

• **FAY:** ...say you had one school where they have a great program...

• I think it’s like reputation...

• **FAY:** But not so good diversity.

• I know I had the option between going here or going to IU. I’m in the music program, and IU has like the third best music program in the nation, and I was accepted there but I chose to come here because it’s smaller and not just because of her (girl in room) which she’s trying to imply.

• **Laughs**

• It is smaller and I just thought I would get to know more people here and of course there would be a lot of diversity, but I thought it would be better for me to come to a smaller
school which is not, obviously not as good of a program as I would have gotten at IU, but I just came here because of the school, because I thought it would be better for me.

- It would be a bigger plus if it was more diversity and you know you had a little niche already.

- I know me and my mother sat in orientation, we’re in orientations and we sat in the back because we were running late of course. My mother is half white and we were sitting there and she’s like “white person, white person, white person, white person... oh there’s a black person! White person, white person, white person, white person, white person”... and that like made me actually really terrified to come here. I mean, at my school it was mixed a lot of my friends...I found diversity into it, but I mean the numbers here are so vastly different that it did make me afraid to come here. That it would be I couldn’t relate to anybody, everybody is from a small town whose never met me and just because of my last name, I’m going to get discriminated against. And I think that the numbers do need to go up. It is...I think because we have all found a group that we relate to...there’s a lot of people who haven’t, and they just don’t know that we’re here. So I mean I don’t know if I’d still be here without a lot of these people. I probably would have transferred way closer to home. I hate living this far, so I think it’s a lot about finding that group that you can relate to, and not just the group. I mean you have to expand out of it but without it, I don’t know if I’d still be here.

- After I left architecture, I had a big decision. Was I going to stick around knowing that I hated like... this university was too small for me...I just wanted a bigger city and more people and a bigger community because I like big cities and I decided not to after I sat down and actually evaluated all my friendships and actually realized how good I had it here. And I’m so glad, so so glad that I didn’t transfer. After that second year, the second year was like my conflict year like am I gonna leave, am I gonna transfer to IU, or am I gonna stick around? And I... I’m... I don’t regret not transferring. I am so glad I am here right now.

- For me, it was I really wanted to come for the architect program, but I was scared I was “Oh, my god I am not going to know anyone, and I wasn’t born here so more, more of my roots... like be with my mom and my friends that actually we can relate because I wasn’t born here... and I know there is a difference sometimes like when people like you guys some of you have born here and the difference between us is that we haven’t born here so I was just scared. I didn’t know. After a while, I started researching because Ball State never gave me an application there’s this group blah blah blah, so I started researching and was like I might give it a try and go to this group and I have been going like four times to the group so I am in that process too like getting to know more people—diverse people.

- [...] 

- You went to Lake Central?

- [...] 

73
• How could I not know? I did not know.

• [...] 

• What year are you? A freshman?

• [...] 

• OK, that’s probably why.

• [...] 

• Yeah that’s what my dad said. He’s like are you sure? Are you sure? He actually said, “Are you sure...’cause the KKK is from that area.” I was like, “Oh I’m sure it’s not like that, not the students. They have different mindsets.” But yeah...it was scary.

• I think kind of like what everyone is saying is that even if diversity wasn’t like a major factor in their choosing to come here, it would have helped. If that would have been a major selling point to everybody like if Ball State had been known for its diversity, I think

• It could have brought in those people who where choosing, thinking about going to Ball State but didn’t who where thinking like us.

• So it’s not like “oh well maybe it would have...” it’s definitely something that people... And it’s not...like nobody can look at it as a bad thing, I can’t possibly conceive how anyone could...anybody could be like “Oh there’s too much diversity there.”

• What is the percentage of diversity?

• Maybe the orientation leaders, they should promote...get more people who are diverse so that when we come or when the freshman come or future freshman come they see they’re not the only ones.

• That’s actually on and SGA slate, is doing diversity training for orientation leaders...

• TEAH: There’s about 10% of diversity here at Ball State.

• It’s nice to have...I mean in 2005/2006 when I was looking at Ball State on College Board it just said like 7% black people, 5% Asian and Latinos... I was just wondering like how it has improved

• It’s 2% Latino, I think it’s 2.

• FAY: Well, they are trying to get to 12% total by 2012 or no

• TEAH: It’s 15% by 2012.

• Latino or...?
• FAY: No total diversity
• I was gonna say...that's a lot of work you guys gotta do
• TEAH: That's like, everybody from Texas
• Or the region...I'm here...right here!
• That's who you guys should target. Target the region.
• Maybe if Ball State had a branch in the region to draw people...
• Cause you don't hear about it...
• Cause there's not enough.
• Well you don't hear anything about Ball State in the Region.
• Cause there's the IU branches and the Purdue branches and the IUPUI branches, but there's no Ball State offices up there...
• And that's a very diverse area
• Yeah, it is.
• It's the most diverse
• In all of Indiana.
• Close to Chicago.
• FAY: Okay well, does anyone else have anything they would like to add?
• I think this is a great idea. You guys did awesome with these questions.
• FAY: We're going to have a group two...
• [Fay explains group two...]
• Just kind of last minute—it just came to me. Like a lot of people said that their parents were kind of hesitant to let their kids go there and I'm sure that there are some parents who have actually talked their kids out of it. So maybe like targeting the parents.
• Let the parents know how well their kids will be taken care of.
• [END]
Why and how would BSU and institutions of higher education benefit from having a greater Latino presence on campus?

Well, first off I think that the more diversity I think that there is on campus the better off the students will be because they are being exposed to a lot of different, obviously cultures and people, and just different types of people that they maybe haven’t been exposed to before they came to college. I know for me it was kind of the reverse, my mom is Venezuelan, so I am like half Hispanic, but I just say I am Hispanic, but I wasn’t around a lot of Latinos in high school, it was all white, so when I came to Ball State there we actually more Latinos here than I had growing up, which is weird. So I mean, I like that aspect of it, coming to college and being around a lot of diversity. Diversity is just an all around good thing.

From a business standpoint, Latinos are now the second largest minority in the United States, so it makes sense for the university to be focusing more on getting that new minority. At some point we are going to surpass, we are going to be the majority, so to have an already established base, and to have already know and to have been working with students of Latino origin or descent, I think it makes sense, business wise, for the university that they already have a lot of long term plans in, and that could definitely be one of the long term plans, to increase it, and like _____ said I think that it is good for all of the students in general to have that access to diversity and to have all of the different cultures and different viewpoints that come out of where they might be from or just having all of those opportunities would be helpful.

How do you think having a more diverse campus effects education? If it does.

Well, from that stance I think that when people are learning things they have their own different ways of learning them and also, I think it also affects the way, I think that I learn differently than other people learn and maybe because of that I can bring in a different viewpoint or a different side of something that someone may not think of, I constantly find myself adding to my International Business courses when something becomes relevant or I know something they have a question about, I can answer it easily you know, off the top of my head, verses having to go back and research and find out, it is something I already know.

So it is kind of like all these different viewpoints can refine...

Yea, and it is actually better in the long run.

Okay, what do you think accounts for the under-representation of Latino student in high education? There’s a lot of things, I am sure.

Okay I think there is two major things that kind of overshadow a lot of them and one of them is funding and the other one is not having the papers, not being legal. So, when
people, like when high school students are coming through and they already see, they are already seeing all of these doors blocked off for them because they don’t have papers, and they don’t realize that they can actually go to college still and that’s even an option, because Ball State can help them with that, and it is just because people don’t know, so they just kind of cut themselves short, right off the bat, and also you see the drop-out rates in high schools, so I mean if they don’t even get through high school, they are not going to even try to venture into the college atmosphere and even if they can, and even if they have all that stuff, the next step is how are they going to pay for it, and a lot of them come from working class and just families that can’t afford it and they are doing all that they can but college just isn’t in the cards for them, so…

• Yea, like he said, when there is a working class family and they are struggling to maybe just get by, or if they don’t have a lot of extra money then really it is not an option, college is not really, like he said, not in the cards. It’s more just trying to find a good job, it’s just something steady, something that’s there, and having the papers, I mean, even if they can go to college after I graduate I still won’t be legal so, what’s the point if I can’t get a job even if I can go to college, so they don’t even bother in the first place

• I think a lot of it stems from people just not knowing what is available to them and a lot of people, I mean, because if somebody, if there is a really good student, regardless of their race, but if especially they’re Latino, they can get really good scholarships, but they just don’t know about it, and they just need somebody to tell them of the opportunities and tell them of what’s out there and what they can take advantage of and that they can go to college, and that, I mean, it is going to be a good experience for them…

• ****…hey…come join us…we’re only on question two…so you didn’t miss much…yea that’s for you…

• I had something and I can’t remember what it was…

• Try to think of it while I ask ****. Do you have an answer to this question? Number 2... What accounts for the under-representation of Latino students in higher education?

• Umm…Okay, in other words why aren’t there more Latinos…

• In college, basically…

• Well, I know back home a lot of the reasons that my Latino friends didn’t go to school were either like two main reasons; one would be that they weren’t financially able to go, and like I know that there is loans out there, but some people really didn’t like, or loans and scholarships in that case, but a lot of people didn’t really go out there and look for them because a lot of them, well like their parents couldn’t really push them, or be like “Look I have been there before, I went to college…yea, you know this is the process you go through…you know, you should fill out these now and you will probably get some help ” or stuff like that. You know a lot of my friend’s parents didn’t really push them or
tell them how...how...to pursue higher education. Another reason I would say is because... I don’t know, I think that would probably be the biggest reason.

- **You were talking about how they don’t have anyone to push them or shove them. What do you guys think the idea of role models? Who’s a good role model in education for Latinos? How do you think that affects them?**

- Well, role models I think being a lot of students that actually do go to college, I think their parents are the first ones to go or that they have some type of family but, if your family has never gone and that is just not an option for them. And you think that you can just kind of get by with doing the same thing as the rest of your family, I mean they don’t really know how the process works, so, it’s kind of, it’s kind of a complicated process no matter what, I remember, when I was getting into it and my dad had gone so. Well, my mom had gone, but in Peru, so, yea...

- So it was helpful...

- Yea, I mean, they definitely helped me a lot, well, they didn’t really give me an option not to go, well, I wanted to go, yea know...so...

- **You were also saying that one thing that people just don’t know, they just don’t know how to get the funding...where, they just don’t know that they can get really good scholarships...what do you think the best way would be to let them know? Does every university need to have a bilingual person who can talk to the parents and the students?**

- Yea, I think that that would be ideal, at least one, some person that could be there to answer any questions of anyone, who possibly can’t speak English or maybe, if the parents have questions. No...no family is going to be completely Okay with their child going away from...

- Usually, most Latino families are very close-nit and a lot of them will have the tendency to actually stay closer to home. So the idea of going away to college kind of goes against the grain because most families all reside in the same area. So you’ll have one street where there are multiple aunts and uncles and the whole family grew up there and that’s where they still are and that’s where they’ll be for a long time and the idea of going away to college doesn’t really fit into that very well. I think that’s somewhere where maybe community colleges can fill in. But overall as far as Ball State, I think that they could at least have somebody there to answer any questions. Maybe on their brochures and on their advertising they could add a little statement that says “we have services for Spanish-speaking people”. Something as simple as that it could even just be a sentence at the bottom that says it and then people could get the idea.

- Going off of what you asked about role models, I wasn’t given the option of going college. My parents did not pursue higher education, not because they didn’t want to it was more because they couldn’t. They grew up in Mexico and they really had to help
their families financially and their parents were farmers, so as soon as they were in their teens they had to start working "labor work" instead of going to school. So when they came to the United States it was kind of like "We're coming to the united states so that you guys can pursue education and don't have to be blue collar people but instead white collar people". So my role model was not necessarily my parents as far as education but it was my older sister because when she came here she was already sixteen and it was hard for her to learn English and she was a sophomore and she got pushed. It was sophomore year, junior, senior year then it's right away college. Three years, that's not a lot, compared to most students here who have eighteen years, well not really eighteen years, but they have a good amount of years to say "Oh I'm probably going to go to college". She was already like, "Oh, I'm going to college". And she went to college and she really didn't struggle until her senior year, but she managed to graduate within five years. And she became my role model because she did it and I was like, well I'm not saying my sister could do it but it was more like "Well, my sister did it so I have to do it. There's no excuse why I shouldn't do it."

- But when that's not in place, it would be so difficult to know that there's anything out there besides staying in the same place.

- I mean, unless you went out and actively searched for it. But then where do you literally go to get the information?

- I think that going out on your own is such a United States mentality, "Go out on your own, make a career for yourself". We're talking about cultural differences. Well, Latino families, they value togetherness.

- It's definitely an individualist thing, it's like you have to get out there and do it for yourself. Whereas with all the Latinos it's like a community-type community base.

- It's pretty funny because ***** said you know, about it being really close. Well, I recently moved but where I used to live my grandma used to live around the corner and everybody lived within ten blocks or so. But I moved last summer and next door to me lives my aunt. It's true, my mom really liked being with her family. Here we are in the United States and it's all about individualism—it's about family.

- The family is more of a support group than here, so that's why

- FAY: This is completely off script, and that's a good thing I think, but it's almost like, who are we to say what's better, like is individualism so much better than the other way, living collectively with your family? But there's obviously still this problem. They're not, Latino communities are not getting the same level of education and they can't rise up economically.

- That's why I think it's important to have kind of like a community away from home that you can have here. And maybe that's something else, like I know a lot of people in LSU, Latino Student Union, they, I know I feel like it's my family and I know a lot of people
actually consider it their family too. And I think it really helps to have other people that share your situations and some of your backgrounds and that understand some of the things that you’re going through when you come to college. So I think that if Ball State really works on strengthening that, that that could definitely be another huge asset for it.

- **FAY: Strengthening LSU?**

- Right, Well, not, LSU specifically but...

- **FAY: Kind of the group community.**

- Maybe marketing that, showing that more to the Latino community, whatever, the minority community would be is that we’re here for you.

- So maybe when they’re going out and saying “hey, leave your family, come away to college” but be like, “you’re not going to be alone”.

- You have to make the family feel comfortable with it. To let them know, yah, exactly, that they’re not going to be alone when they get there.

- **FAY: It would be really interesting to market Ball State as a community-type, ’cause I really do feel like it’s more like that than other institutions. It’s more like, we are about community, we are about setting you up as a well-rounded person, not just like...**

- But a lot of people really... You can’t really see that from the outside.

- **FAY: So maybe to the office of admissions, we could be like; you should market it this way.**

- **FAY: We may have touched on this one, it says: In what ways is Latino culture different from other culture that might make it more difficult for Latino youth to pursue higher education. We kind of talked about tight-knit families. Can you guys thing about any other... I just put well, we don’t have any girls here to speak about what it’s like for... well maybe you guys have sisters, I don’t know...**

- Well I mean, the whole culture is very man-censored, and I mean, having girls go off to college I think would be a really hard thing, especially for the dad’s to see their daughters leave and I don’t know, I think, I don’t specifically know much personally...

- **FAY: Your sisters went!**

- Yah, both, well one of my older sisters she stayed at a local college, kind of community college thing. And my middle sister, the middle child, she actually went to IUB and I remember when she left, we dropped her off and my mom was crying all the way the and all the way back, because it was the first daughter that was actually leaving. And when I
left, my mom was sad but I guess she was more used to, like more comfortable with me leaving, one because I was a guy and I guess because she already experienced it. But as far as culture, I would say it's always harder for a guy, a Latino male, to let go of their daughter, because Latino men are very macho, like, I'm a guy, they're really manly I would say. Latino guys are like I don't want my daughter to be a slut, so I'm just going g to keep her here.

- FAY: Another thing I wrote was oral culture. And this was something we talked about in Dr. Pak's class before about how, if we just throw a bunch of brochures, even if they are in Spanish, at people, they may not be drawn to read it because Latino culture can be a lot more oral, like “we just want to talk and be together”. Do you think, so would it even be beneficial for us to produce all these written documents and forms or what is a way, how could we overcome that, I guess...

- I would probably say...maybe not...if you wanna go by means of advertising, brochures would probably a good way, but I would probably try to go through commercials...TV commercials. Even though I've already seen Ball State when I'm back home, but, I mean, I think that would be more appealing. Like ‘cause you see it and you're just like, “Oh, Ball State”. For example, my girlfriend, she lives back home, and she received a Ball State brochure and packet, or whatever. And I think one of the things that kind of attracted her that she read first, well...that she saw first, were the pictures. And of course, you're more bound to look at pictures first. You go, “Well, let me see how this university looks”. So I would say probably go on...using commercials just because you're seeing the campus, and then you could possibly be like “I could see myself there” as opposed to reading, “Oh, we have the Latino Student Union”. Or you could see the Latino Student Union doing stuff:

- Or maybe you could have a specific commercial based completely in Spanish, and target it to one of the major Spanish speaking...would those

- FAY: Univision?

- I know...Univision

- We have that up there in the Region

- We do

- Those come out of Chicago though, right?

- What, Univision?

- Yeah, and Telemundo

- I thought they were from Indianapolis?
• No, I mean the channels we get up in the Region... they're broadcasted out of Chicago. I mean, Chicago wouldn't be a bad market to tap, either, I don't know.

• FAY: Ball State just needs to go up there, period. Like up to the...

• Oh yeah, the Region is definitely...I don't think Ball State really focuses on it very much, at all

• They should, I think. Because I know some friends that wanted to come here. Well, one of my friends that's a girl wanted to come here, but one of the reasons that she didn't come here is because here mom was like, "No, I don't like you going so far."

• FAY: The other thing is it is so far. So you have to overcome that, too

• Wellington's farther...

• DANIEL: Just to clarify, what area are we talking about?

• I'm sorry, Northwest Indiana

• FAY: It's Lake and Porter county...right up by Chicago. Like these two counties that are right ...

• Lake and Porter

• FAY: Lake and Porter county are right inside...on Lake Michigan. It's like this pocket right up there by Chicago

• It's pretty intense...and urban

• FAY: It's like...suburb of Chicago, but in Indiana, kind of. It's called the Region, 'cause it's very culturally different than the whole rest of the state. Like I'm from there, too, and I went through such...I had to get used to farm culture down here...country farm culture. So it was weird for me, too.

• FAY: Ok, let's move on to number four. If you could, talk a little bit about your application process and decision process to come to Ball State. What made you decide to come here? Was it easy or difficult? What could have made it more comfortable for you to decide to come here?

• Well, my mom made me promise to stay in state for undergrad. And my whole life, I was like, "I'm gonna be an architect, that's what I wanna do." And that's basically what it was...this was the only program. And actually, I know a lot of Latinos that come here for architecture. So maybe they could, I don't know...maybe that could be something...
• **FAY:** Another commercial about architecture?

• No, but they...they...I mean, when I realized that, in fact, being an architect wasn't what I wanted to do, then it was the decision of whether or not I was going to stay. But, it was pretty easy for me, because that's what I wanted to do, and that's why I came here.

• My parents actually forced me to come here. I was like, “Ok, I'll go with you...but I'm not gonna...”...I remember telling them, “I'm not gonna go to Ball State. I'll go with you, but I'm not gonna go there.” But then, here I am. So then, it really wasn't that tough of a decision for me. I dunno, the decision...

• **FAY:** What won you over?

• There wasn't a lot of cultural or Latino things...I thought the campus looked nice. Coming up here in the summer is lot different than being here in the winter. They never tell you that.

• **FAY:** Where are you from?

• [City name...] But, yeah, I like the campus. And... I got a Latino scholarship, actually...that was another thing that pushed me. That was the main reason I came here.

• **FAY:** Which scholarship was it?

• It was like National Hispanic Finalist or something like that. It was some test scores...I don't...but yeah.

• **FAY:** And did they advertise that to you...or did you just find out later?

• I just pretty much found out later. They sent me something in the mail about it. So I came up here knowing that I was going to get a scholarship, I guess. 'Cause they sent that out in the mail. It wasn't in Spanish. There were some colleges that sent it out in Spanish. Like the same scholarship I guess, but since they knew it was a Hispanic thing, they sent it in Spanish. Which I guess that could be something that would be useful. If they know it's a Hispanic anyways, just send them a letter in Spanish.

• Ball State...this was my second choice. This was just my backup. Like [...] said, I always thought about being an architect, all of my life. I applied for Notre Dame, thinking I was going to get in. But I didn't. So when it came down to, “Do I still want to be an architect?” I mean...I only applied to Notre Dame and Ball State...so it was like, “I'm gonna do architecture no matter what.” So I never visited the campus until April of my senior year, so I was just like “Oh, I'm coming here already.” It was never based on any culture things...'cause I mean growing up... I kind of prepared myself growing up, because my parents are really Latino orientated. They have a strong connection with their Mexican culture. And growing up, I was like, “Well, I'm gonna go to college, and it's gonna be this completely different cultural aspect of my life, and I might as well
prepare myself.” So throughout high school and everything, I would broaden my viewpoints on everything. Just like, with different things. I wouldn't just be like, “Oh, that's dumb...I'm gonna listen to Spanish music.” Or I'm just...I would listen to all different kinds of music. So going off of that, my parents never sent...never pushed me towards the college, 'cause like I said, they really didn't know about colleges, even though my two sisters went. They were like, “Well, as long as you go to college, you're gonna be good.” So it was just kinda like...I came here

- FAY: Do you feel like...you said you broaden you viewpoint...listen to other music and stuff. Did that help you make the transition? Would you recommend that to other Latino students coming in?

- I would say so. Because I mean, when I got here...I already know like, a variety of musical artists, from rock to rap to classical ...from anything. And when I got here, it was funny, 'cause were these two guys in my studio, in one of my classes, that were...they were talking about these underground rock bands. And I was like, “Oh, I know who they are!” And they were like, “Oh, you do?” And I was like, “Yeah, you know, I've been to a couple of their concerts.” And they were like, “Oh...That's cool”. And that just made it easier to talk...

- FAY: To click...

- And right off of there, we were just friends. As opposed to like...if I were just to listen to something else. And it's always good just to like...to be really...knowledgeable. It's helpful, so

- FAY: That's good. Ok, next one... “Is there any way Ball State could have changed...could change...what could it have offered you to make your decision to come here easier? I don't know if that really applies to any of your guys' cases. So...

- FAY: I wanted to ask you...what was your major?

- I'm a Spanish and Pre-med major

- FAY: Ok. Just since...architecture made their decision for them...I was just wondering if maybe you were archie, too

- FAY: So...all right, number six. Let's talk about parents...Latino parents, some more. How do they influ...we talked about them a little bit...how do they influence into the college process? How should...this kind of goes into the next one...do universities communicate well with them? Does Ball State communicate well with Latino parents...the Latino community? I don't know...

- My parents are really like...they have really poor English

- Okay.
• So it’s like they understand English like anything you say to them they’ll understand but it’s really hard for them to communicate back with you. So when they came, when we came for orientation...You know how they separate students from parents?

• Yeah. That’s hard.

• So yeah, it was really hard for them. Like if they had to ask a question, but they understood everything that was going on. So, I mean it’s kinda hard to say ‘everything’, every event needs a bilingual translator because at the same time, I don’t think that’s always the case, but at an orientation like that, they probably should just because I mean, they should try to appeal to everybody.

• Well if not an actual translator, even like they could have something in Spanish with the main points of what they are going to talk about like on the back table or something. I think would help.

• That’s true. There was something I was going to ask off of what he was saying, and now I can’t remember what it was...

• My parents both basically told me since I was little that I was going to college, so...

• It’s different for every family...yeah. I’m still trying to think of what I was going to ask you...Are your parents bilingual?

• My mom is. My dad is kinda getting there. He’s been trying for a while.

• To go the other way?

• To speak Spanish yeah, but my mom’s first language is Spanish. But I mean she’s been here for a while so she manages fine in English.

• Okay.

• I know my dad when he went to college ‘cause he was actually the first person in his family to go to college, his parents kind of like didn’t want him to go, like they didn’t want him to leave. And he ended up actually not finishing because he felt the need, well first of all his dad died while he was in college and second of all like his family back home like they really needed him to come and like help them with bills and stuff like that so I don’t know. He was really adamant that he wanted me to go like because of that I guess.

• Okay. I guess the last question is just again like a really broad...Is there anything more that we could think of that like Ball State could do to improve the relationship between our school and... I’m just thinking about what you were talking about, the orientation experience for your parents...if they’re not...that would be scary.
It was pretty funny 'cause they actually met another Latino family from Texas. Their son was going here and they talked to them for a bit, but I think they got separated so it was just...I felt really bad afterwards 'cause I was just like...they didn't really know what was going on. I guess they did but it was just kind of like they were really isolated even if they were in a group and I don't know. As far as improving the relationship, I mean maybe even at the orientation if they could have a Latino parents get together, where they have... not necessarily like a group where all day they are together, but like an hour or so...

Yeah maybe a time to talk about specific needs of their kids or, “Can we just talk about what this is going to be like for my child,” or something like that...

Yeah.

And it could maybe be bilingual or something. That would be good.

Or maybe focusing more on the actual high schools in those Latino communities would maybe help a lot just to get the name out there and just so that they know and maybe like send somebody who speaks Spanish so they can know that you know they won't be alone over there so that they can tell them about the activities.

Something.....mumbled....

Doesn't La Plaza just focus on Indianapolis?

I mean I don't think their reach, they have so many people that they are dealing with, like they are just bogged down with the number of staffers 'cause they are like a non-profit.

There's only like ten people on staff and most of those aren't full time.

So it's like they are only doing Indy because there's so much work for them there like anyway like if they had that in Chicago that would be great...something like that but...

Does anybody have anything else they would like to add? Anything to say?

I mean this might be obvious, but if Ball State did show a little more emphasis on the Latino community here like LSU or any kind of Latino-ness here like where they show kids walking on campus or something like that, I think it would be more appealing to people. I guess that's just going over what has been said, but I don't know...it would be really great.

And maybe just like hardcore promote like campus tours that are in Spanish so that like when they are talking about campus tours just be like and we also have them in Spanish
just put it out there in case anybody else does want it and then like by word of mouth be like yeah I know that they have them in Spanish.

- That's the most hardcore thing I think that they are pushing for now even in SGA. You know, how they are trying to get the cultural training for the orientation leaders and stuff. I think we just...and I also think they said they had some applicants for last year for a position that would be bilingual and deal with the Latino families but nobody was good enough for the position. Maybe nobody had the proficiency in Spanish or something...funding.

- Or it may have been a shortcoming in one of the other aspects of the job. It may not have been because of their Spanish skills.

- Yeah, maybe. Yeah I don't know. I just said that. It could have been something else. That's something I would really like to see. It's something I think we should push when we give our presentation.

- Another part of our class took and tour and they pretended to be prospective Ball State students, which is kind of funny because most of them are seniors. Um and they were asking about multicultural events and um one of the guys said his parents were coming and they speak Spanish so they had to call this poor person and drag her out of a class because she was the only tour guide that knows Spanish and that's like out of 40 tour guides.

- And is she even a Spanish major? I think she's a Spanish minor...

- And she's graduating so they are going to be in a pickle next year.

- I just wonder if the issue for them in getting that is a funding thing like I don't know if they can pay for someone in that position which is really sad so what we are trying to do is convince them that it's worth their dollars to do this...

- Well, if they do it and it brings way more students in, then it will be worth it.

- A translator is $75 an hour...

- Is that saying like that's a lot?

- They wouldn't necessarily be a translator. They would be just speaking straight to the families...yeah.

- I think whatever they pay the other people that do that already, like the admissions people, they should probably just pay the same.

- Wait is that speaking as like a coordinator or like somebody that just gives tours?
• Oh that would be somebody that's actually in the admissions office...

• Like a coordinator.

• Yeah like a coordinator.

• The tour guides get something else because they are all students.

• That's something we're definitely capitalizing for sure...

• There is only going to be more and more Latino students poppin' up so...

• Yeah it's gonna happen. Well thanks guys. I appreciate you coming so much, and I think that we did come up with some good ideas.
• Yeah.

• I remember my RA made me feel really welcome, but I think, I mean if anything that’s a easy way to get to the students is like my RA was really good so...

• What about now? Now that you’ve been here for a while? Are there any instances that have happened that would make you feel like... “Oh.” Like from faculty members or like anything that makes you think maybe I don’t want to be here. Maybe there’s not which would be good, but we’re just trying to...

• Of course, by all means...

• This is because of race right?

• Laughter.

• Is this like based on who we are or is this like on a general basis?

• General basis.

• Yeah, generally or if there is anything that...yeah.

• Well, if we’re not talking minority wise, I had a great time my freshman year when I came here. But as a minority, as far as being Latina, it wasn’t like, “Hi, you’re Latina, let’s do this.” It wasn’t like that as a freshman. I think they just tried to stick everyone together, which is a good thing, so you’re not really by yourself, which is a good think ‘cause I really loved my freshman year like the beginning. As far as your race, I didn’t feel especially welcomed.

• Well maybe that’s something we could talk about. Is that something you would want when you first got here like someone to reach out and be like, “Oh, there’s this group because you’re Latina or would you rather just... do you think it’s good that everybody is like stuffed together and like figure it out.

• I think it’s good, but at the same time, I think they should give options and say like, “Hey we have these different groups on campus like maybe give all the options of what they are, so like explain...I know I go back to LSU a lot but like explain that there is an LSU or a BSA you know to that extent on campus. Not necessarily like, “If you’re Latino, go... but like to everybody. The general message out there of like this is something you might be able to relate to and something you might be interested in just in general just being a student—not necessarily being a Latino student but just being a student. So I think they could possibly push those kinds of things and even the multicultural center. I know they have the big barbecue at the beginning of the year... even that. That’s a good time when all the organizations are there, and they can kind of start dipping their toes into some multiculturalism.
• We've kind of discussed before in past groups like what's the best way to do that—to let the freshman know at the beginning because there is so much information that is thrown at them at the beginning, so how could we make that stick out or like I remember ****, who is not here, one time...she was saying like I don't necessarily want to be for them to send me an email that's like, "Oh, you're Latina, here's this group." She doesn't want to be pegged out necessarily from the get-go.

• I think to some degree you don't want to be bothered by it you don't want people to be like, "Hey, you're Latino we're going to keep bugging you about it, but it should be to the point where you know about it. You don't want to have a Latino organization and never know it existed, but at the same time, you want to keep it to a degree of you mention it somewhere on the welcoming sign or like there's a booth somewhere.

• Well, at the beginning of the year, they have the fair.

• Yeah, the fair.

• It wasn't really advertised that much to us like I didn't know about it until ***** called me. ***** called me and was like "I'm heading over. Do you want to come with me?" So it wasn't really...it was a welcome week event, but it wasn't something they really pushed in the dorms. That's where I first saw LSU, BSA, Native Americans, the belly-dancing...like I saw all those people, but it wasn't really a pushed thing to go to.

• I guess just giving people the chance of seeing what's there is better than not letting them know.

• But at the same time, with the career fair it's just so... not the career fair, well it's basically the same set up. With the activity fair, it's also really easy to pass up a booth that you might be interested in because there's just so much. Like, okay so say you would be interested in something on the other side of the walk way, but there's people going all the way across and sometimes either you won't see it or it's not worth...you just might not go over there.

• It's overwhelming.

• Yeah, it is a little overwhelming because there is just so much there. Maybe different times of the day, they could highlight different organizations that are in there and just be like, "Hey, make sure you go and stop by" like on the intercom or whatever and maybe they're giving something away or maybe there's a drawing or something or maybe there some type of bingo and if you go to all of them and you collect something, you might win something or get a t-shirt.

• Like maybe be like separate it. Be like "Organizations set up at this time: multicultural organizations, Greek organizations, sports clubs." Break it up 'cause it's just intimidating when you're in there. I remember seeing LSU and being like "Oh, okay." I kept going. The first time I just remember seeing it...okay and moved on. Maybe that's LSU's deal but...at
the same time..idk.

- I don’t know, and I don’t really remember, but do they have a list of everybody that’s at the activities fair? Because that might even be helpful, and that they can split that up and maybe some type of map so you can be like, “Oh.” And like go and look at it and be like, “I want to check this out.” So you can like map it out and see like where it is so you can see where you want to go in the whole area.

- That would be really simple too.

- And so like I mean maybe there’s a really cool organization, but they’re just starting out maybe like they don’t have a lot of members to make like a really cool eye catching poster. I mean you could be able to go and still find it and even if their banner was just like a piece of paper on the table.

- I think your idea about the map is really helpful because to make something like that is not even all that hard but it gets the point across. It’s kind of like going to a mall and seeing where all the athletic stores are at and you just put like go here on all the football clubs, soccer clubs, multicultural clubs and then you just name them.

- Or some kinda of form that like, “I’m interested in…check this box, check this box and then there were the names of the groups that pertain to that interest like next to it. Because the challenge kind of sounds like getting it to stick out but not in a way that’s pushy. It’s not like throw it in your face but it’s there and it’s open if you want to go…to any club.

- Yeah.

- Okay, well…the next question is, “Do you remember applying and being admitted to Ball State? How was that process for you? Where there any difficulties? And did the faculty and staff address these issues? How did they?

- I remember it was really scary for me because I really didn’t know anything about Ball State. I had never taken a campus tour or anything like that, and I knew I went in for architecture, but my architecture was more scary because you have to apply to both, and I was nervous about getting into it period.

- On the contrary, I wasn’t worried about it I was just like “Oh, it’s Ball State.” I didn’t even think about how difficult it was to get into the program until you’re actually in and you see how many people struggled to get in and how many people are on the waiting list, and that’s kind of when I thought about it, but as far as like before coming here, I was just like, “Oh, whatever.”

- Ball State was my last choice. I got denied from my other places. People kept saying “Ball State, Ball State,” and I was just like, “Whatever.” ‘Cause I was here about six years ago when my sister went to look for schools, and I didn’t like Ball State then, and people were
like, “Oh, it changed, it changed,” and I was like, “Okay, fine. I’ll go look at it.” And when I actually went for the tour and everything, I fell in love with the school, but as far as being...I got accepted and remember...I came in the house and my mom had the stupid envelope. She had opened it, and She’s like, “You got accepted.” I’m like, “Thanks.”

- *Laughter.*

- I’m like, “Just ruin it for me.” But, I remember being so proud because it was the first place I got accepted to, and I just love Ball State for that because no one else would give me the chance. They did not have to accept me. Believe me. My GPA was not good enough. They didn’t have to accept me, and they did, and I’m happy, and that’s why I’m still here.

- I kind of just hid mine from my mom because I’d already been accepted to a private school, so was going to go to Valpo University and then I was like...

- I cannot believe were going to go to V.U.!
- I know right!

- It was either Valpo or St. Francis, so I just kinda hid mine. ‘Cause I changed my major. I was supposed to go music ed, so it was kinda like hidden it from my mom until she came home with the letter. I was like trying to play dumb. There was like a big YES on the envelope so I was like, “Oh, wait I forgot I applied there. I hid it from her for like a month and when I told her, she was like, “You’re not going away to college!” And then it wasn’t until we went to a scholarship meeting because I go for free and that...So I was just like I’m going to Ball State.

- Um, Ball State was the first and only school I applied to because I wasn’t really worried about getting in. Because I thought it was going to be pretty easy to get it. I don’t know. It was really easy. I didn’t worry at all. I didn’t apply to any other schools [17 year old].

- So overall it sounds like it was an exciting and good and easy thing. Was there anything that happened after you were accepted that was like, “Oh, my gosh. Now I have to move. What is that going to be like?” Kind of like what happens next like adjusting to being here. That might have been hard.

- I was happy to get out from where I was, I was so happy. I was ready to get out the door. I was sad I was leaving my family, but I wasn’t sad I was leaving where I was from. I wasn’t upset about that at all, I was really happy.

- I think the only freshman thing is that you get a letter a day from them. Like, “Oh do you want a bike lock”, or “oh, do you want an air conditioner next year, or do you want this” And I’m like, enough with the letters. That was the only freshman thing I wish could be different.

- **Were you aware of scholarships Ball State offered specifically to minority students?**
- I still don’t, that’s the first thing I’d try to include.
• No, I didn’t

• Nope

• No

• The only reason I know now is because I work with admissions and we mention it. I did not know. I wish I knew

• But see, up in the region, you don’t get a lot of stuff from Ball State though. Because I know Merrilville they didn’t have anything. It was all Purdue and I.U. They don’t have scouts there from Ball State, it was just like, ehh, whatever.

• I love Ball State but I didn’t know about that scholarship.

• I kinda did, but it was, I don’t know what scholarship it was, but the topic had to deal with Martin Luther King, and I remember applying for it, but I didn’t get it.

• So other than you, it sounded like you guys didn’t really know about them at all.

• We wish we had known, save some money.

• *Laughter*

• They have what?

• They have money for us?

• I think I got more scholarships opportunities from fraternities, you know how they offer a scholarship and you have a cookout with them or something? I probably got more of those than actually from the university itself.

• *Ok, so Scholarship is one thing you would have liked ball state to communicate better with you about. Is there anything you can think of before you came to college that you wish you would have known? This is kind of like the next question. Is there anything you wish you would have known before coming here?*

• Potholes? No I was joking, but they’re really bad, they need to fix that

• Construction and potholes.

• I mean, this isn’t something that Ball State could fix, But I kinda wish I would have known how Muncie was.

• *Laughter*

• Ball State is like a little oasis. I don’t feel that as a Ball State student I am welcome in Muncie-- at all. I feel like there is that constant, head, I don’t know.