

Saints STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Living by her brand: bright, involved, creative

The camera loves Nubia Rodriguez, but she would rather be on the other end of the lens. An avid Instagram user, Nubia aims to transform her love of photography and social media into a career in digital marketing.

Behind-the-scenes thoughtfulness is Rodriguez' style. As a junior at Liberal High School, she signed up for dual-credit SCCC classes in history and math.

"I wanted to kind of subtly get a taste of college work," she said. At the time, she envisioned a career in health care or social work. The problem was, she recalls now, "I was really stressed about it. I think I had the idea that I needed to know and that it had to be something society deemed 'important.'"

Still uncertain about her focus of study, Rodriguez chose SCCC because it was cost-effective and close to home.

"I take advantage of the resources around me," she said. "I knew I was planning to transfer, and I didn't want to rush that. I found it really convenient to stay with my family and figure out what I want to do with my career."

Rodriguez is grateful that her mother, Janeth Trevizo, consistently prioritized health and happiness over prestige.

"My single mom raised me to do what you love, not what other people expect of



you. I really appreciate that," she said.

At SCCC, Rodriguez joined the HALO club and discovered that "I want to be a leader, like my mother. It's really powerful, and I've had that example since I was little."

Step by step, she developed her capacity to be a "people person" and interact with ease. She introduced speakers at a Hispanic Heritage professionals forum. With fellow HALO members, she ran a voter registration campaign that signed up 78 new voters, and posted about the club on social media.

As she prepares for her final semester at SCCC, Rodriguez said a lot has changed. She feels a confidence she lacked when she arrived. She has a better understanding that everyone's life is different, and "the people who go into healthcare, I really admire them, even if it is not for me." She is proud to report that her mother was recently named Mosaic's State Operation Director for Kansas.

Next, she said, "it will be my turn to make her proud."

Nubia Rodriguez

Age: 19, Sophomore at SCCC

Hometown: Liberal, Kan.

Major: Digital Media Marketing

High points at SCCC:

- The social media for HALO.
- I love all my classes with Russ Reglin. I have taken at least four already. I like his teaching style.
- Crusader News practicum II with Miles Rothlisberger, has given me more training in how to write articles, more like journalism.

Clubs & Hobbies:

- HALO (Hispanic American Leadership Organization)
- TRiO
- Crusader News
- Golf, tennis, reading dystopian YA fiction
- Co-host of Louie @ Noon podcast

Looking forward to:

- Transferring to WSU or Fort Hays. I built myself a place in the community here and am involved. Taking that to a four-year university, I don't want to stop.

Career Goal: Digital Media Marketing —there are so many options for this. I'm really interested in learning how to design a work-life balance in the future.