

Interview History

INTERVIEWER: Amanda Díaz – undergraduate student at the University of Puget Sound’s History department for her Summer Research project.

TIME AND SETTING OF INTERVIEW:

Time: Friday, June 30th at 11:32AM

Place: Arroyo Park Bellingham, WA

Total number of recorder hours: 53:02 minutes

Persons present during interview: Amanda Díaz and Miguel Armenta

CONDUCT AND PROCESSING OF INTERVIEW:

This interview is part of the Summer Research Richard Bangs Collier Scholarship at the University of Puget Sound for the project titled, *The American Creed: Immigration and Detention in Tacoma*. The interview was conducted in English.

Amanda Díaz prepared for this interview by taking the HIS 387: History of US Immigration course taught by Prof. Andrew Gomez in the History department. Amanda has also presented at President Crawford's Inauguration Symposium about the private-immigration detention center in Tacoma, the Northwest Detention Center. She also founded the club called Advocates for Detained Voices, a club that works with a local nonprofit to provide legal and counselling services for families affected by the NWDC.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

Records relating to the interview are located in the Archives at Collins Memorial Library at the University of Puget Sound.

Table of Contents- MIGUEL ARMENTA
Saturday, June 30th - 11:32AM - Bellingham, WA

(00:65)- Biographical information

(1:25) - Life as an undocumented immigrant in Los Angeles, California versus working as an undocumented agricultural worker in Washington. First job with First fruits Company in Tri Cities, Washington “rolling bins” working 4am to 3pm everyday with terrible wages.

(06:55) Greyhound bus experience and altercation with Border Patrol that led to his detainment at the Northwest Detention Center.

(09:17)- Once inside the Northwest Detention Center, Miguel talks about standing up for his rights and complaining about the maltreatment which led him to start the Hunger Strike at the Northwest Detention Center in 2014.

(10:31)- Treatment inside the Northwest Detention Center and lack of medical treatment Miguel needed for his medical issues.

(13:07) - Lack of support from other people who were also detained and the teasing he received from the officers for his involvement in the Hunger Strike.

(16:22) Demand #1: People detained need medical treatment right away

(17:12) Demand #2: Improve the quality of food

(19:02) Demand #3: Stop saying racist things/ hurtful comments

(20:07) Demand #4 Stop Sexual Harrassments

(26:23) Background on the Northwest Detention Center Resistance

(28:13) Life since detention job; discussing his job prospects and his mental health.

(34:17) Discrimination at his current job at AM/PM

(37:52) Demographics inside the NWDC and the different reasons people are detained

(41:28) Miguel’s response to people who believe that immigrants are a threat to the United States

(43:02) Privatization of the Northwest Detention Center

(46:06) Message to wealthy, White people who want to make a difference

)49:17) Don’t forget to support Miguel’s business once he launches it