Cynthia Orozco

Video Captions

[Hello.] Hi. [Please introduce yourself.] My name is Doctor Cynthia E. Orozco and I am Professor of History and Humanities at ENMU-Ruidoso, and I have been teaching here, began part-time in 1997 and I became a full-time employee in 2000, so I've been here about 19 years.

[And what classes do you teach?] I actually teach all of the History and Humanities classes here because we're such a small college I teach New Mexico History; I teach U.S. History; I teach Western Civ and I teach World Humanities and on occasion, I've also taught Lincoln County History classes.

[Ok, why did you get into teaching?] I actually was a member of the Future Teachers of America when I was in High School and I actually didn't know I was going the teaching route but when I was a sophomore in college, I found out that I really loved research in History, and so I began conducting original, primary research as a sophomore and that kind of took me into the university world the world of academia and so I went that route and of course, once a person finishes the masters or the doctorate, teaching is the most typical career and it's something that I very much love and enjoy.

[Excellent. So what is the most rewarding aspect of teaching?] I think it's in the classroom, I think it's the connection that I can make with students and the question and answer aspect of teaching I use the Socratic method in my classrooms so I don't lecture and we talk and I ask questions and they ask questions and we really enjoy it. And of course in modern-day times, the use of the computer allows us to look up words; it allows us to look up maps; it allows us to get questions answered immediately so that's very exciting as well.

[What would you like your students to know about you?] I guess I would want them to know that I love what I do and it's a lot of work; work and knowledge over time. So then I'm one of those persons that has put in a good amount of time on a regular and daily basis throughout my entire life, actually like I said since I was a sophomore. I would also like them to know that I'm a published author I have co-edited one book called "Mexican-Americans in Texas History;" I've written another one by myself called "No Mexicans, Women or Dogs Allowed; the Rise of the Mexican-American Civil Rights Movement" and then I just finished two books that will both be out this year, one is called "Agent of Change; Adela Sloss-Vento, Mexican-American Civil Rights Activist and Texas Feminist" and then another one "Alonso Perrales; Architect of Latino Destiny" and It's a lot of work to write books, but I'm one of the few Latina historians in the country, there's not a lot of us and therefore I feel that my work is important and necessary. [Absolutely. Thank you very much.]