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Ms. Skinner

September 5, 2013

English 12

Big Fish in a small pond

I live in the small town of Lindsay Ca. Despite being such a small town I have encountered many challenges in my life. One of the main challenges I have faced is the fallacy of “small town living” itself. Small town living is the assumption that people in small towns can’t do bigger and better things because of where they are from. I may live in a small town, but I feel there are bigger and better things out there for me. Even yet, I look around and I see so many of my friends underachieving; it’s sad to see people I have known my whole life fall into this frame of mind. But unlike most kids I was lucky. Coming into high school I joined AVID, AVID is a class that my school offers to all incoming freshmen, which is intended as a four year course, as long as you meet all the requirements. AVID is intended to help first generation college students attend a four year university. I honestly had no idea what I was getting into; all I knew was that my brother graduated high school with an “AVID family” and I wanted that. But in reality I just thought it would be a free period for my other classes to study and do other classes homework. I was wrong. It was so much more. It was another family a family of kids; kids that all wanted one thing: a chance. A chance to be all that they can be; a chance to go to college; a chance to help out their families. Whatever their reasoning was it was all wrapped around the idea of making yourselves better.

We have been through a lot with our AVID family but we have always been there for one another. Whether it was losing a family member, needing help in school, supporting each other at school events, or even losing an AVID teacher we found a way through it all. I know we’re all going to accomplish all our dreams and I’m pretty sure our new learning facilitator is here to stay. I know she is a good teacher and will be an even better AVID “mom”. She is looking for nothing but the best out of us. Even though Mrs. Torres has only been here a year, she has probably impacted me the most out of my other teachers. They have all taught me something as they passed through my life, but she has affected my life so much. She has helped me think things through. She’s kept me level-headed but also let me know there so much more out in the world. I just have to grab a hold of it and work for it. People think AVID is just a waste of time, but I can honestly say AVID has picked me up when I was down, pushed me further in school than I ever thought I would go. I don’t think I would be where I am if wasn’t for this AVID class. It has always helped me better myself and it has never let me fall into the trap of “small town living”. I have learned to be who I am show my true side, because I will always have people who will see the real me and love me for who I am. The best thing about my AVID family is that we’re so diverse. There are the brains, the athletes, the outgoing, and the shy kids. You’d think this wouldn’t work out but it so dang perfect because we all have one goal. That goal is to be great.