



**Soroptimist International
of Gresham Endowed
Scholarship recipient,
Irma Lopez**

I am a Latina woman and a single mom. When I came to this country, I had a big obstacle: I did not speak English or Spanish. My first language is Triqui, a native language from the region where I was born, Oaxaca, Mexico. I graduated with my GED in 2014. I started learning English in my twenties at Mt. Hood Community College in the English as a Second Language (ESL) program. In 2015 I began studying the Intensive English for College and Careers (IECC) program at Mt. Hood Community College, but I got pregnant, and I decided to temporarily sacrifice my dream to take care of my daughter. Finally, the spring term was my last term of IECC. I have been involved in the community through volunteer service in different institutions. I was a volunteer at Early Head Start, and also I was a volunteer helping low-income individuals through IRS income tax assistance programs. Also, I helped students with their classes in the INEA program, which allows people to gain literacy skills at the Program Hispano, sponsored by the Mexican Consulate. Additionally, I am a volunteer teaching the children about God at the Hispanic Adventist Church.



Dear Donor,

I'm honored to receive the Soroptimist International of Gresham Endowed Scholarship through the Mt. Hood Community College Foundation. Thank you for your generosity which has allowed me to continue my studies. I am very excited to hear of my selection for this honor and I am deeply grateful for your support. I honestly felt so special that I cried for happiness.

I am a student at MHCC, so this is my last term to finish my Intensive English for College and Career (IECC) classes. I will continue to take college classes and focus on my career. My major goal is to get the Medical Receptionist Certificate. The financial assistance you gave me will be of great help to pay for my educational expenses and will allow me to focus my time more on studying.

I am very grateful for your generosity and support. I promise you I will work very hard and eventually give back to others. Your generosity has inspired me to help others and give back to the community. I hope one day I will be able to help students achieve their goals just as you have helped me.

Sincerely,

Irma Lopez Alvarez