

*Paulina Baez, a former David Lynch Kindergarten student was Lynch's college student 23 years later.*

Spring semester 2018 at Southwestern College in San Deigo: Paulina Baez, a 1995 graduate of the Responsibility Kindergarten at the old Tijuana Dump is one of my college students. I found out the 2nd class when she asked me if I owned the David Lynch Kindergarten in Tijuana that she attended. Unfortunately, due to low enrollment, the class was cancelled.

Her parents still live in the neighborhood right across the street from the Responsibility school. I received this email after that class from Paulina:

*...” I told my mom about us meeting (at SWC) and me being in your class and she wants me to say THANK YOU for all that you have done for the community. I also want to say THANK YOU, too, for not forgetting about us (the kids that live in a dumpster (that is her word.) and helping us ♥)”*

I asked Paulina to write a short autobiography. (written in February 2018)

I was born on June 28, 1989, in Sylmar, California, of undocumented parents. We returned to Jalisco, Mexico, (southern Mexico) when I was 2 years old and live there for two years. (One of my 2 brothers was born there.) Then we moved to Tijuana because my Dad knew he could work in the Tijuana municipal dump as a “pepenador” (scavenger.) Here is where my youngest brother was born.

Growing up, my mom was a housewife. I went to the David Lynch Kindergarten and Professor Felipe was my first preschool teacher. Professor Dora and Professor Martha were my kindergarten teachers. I graduated in the year 1995 and then attended the primary school in my neighborhood. I graduated elementary school in 2001. In 2004, I graduated with honors from junior high school; and in 2007, I graduated from high school.

My plan was to attend medical school but my father lost his job (the garbage dump closed) and I was forced to leave school and work to help support the family. At 19 years old, I found work in a cafeteria not too far from home and worked there for 2 years. I signed up to study nursing in the red cross, but the schedules did not allow me to study and work, so I just had to put my dream of studying on hold and continue working.

I am now married and we have a 6 year old daughter. Both my husband and I can legally live and work in the United States, but we choose to live in Mexico close to our family and friends. We are both studying English. I also work in Kmart which is right at the border crossing. My plans are to improve my English and then pursue a degree in nursing.

(updated on December 12, 2019 by Lynch). Paulina was my student at Southwestern College in my Public Speaking Class in the Spring semester 2019.)

(Pictures: Left to right. Paulina in preschool, Paulina's graduation from Kindergarten, Paulina attending Southwestern College with Professor David Lynch, and the last picture is of the garbage dump. This is where her Dad worked and why the family moved to Tijuana. Her dad is not in this picture. It was taken last week.)

