

Biography

Roger Griego:

Have you ever wanted to fulfill your dreams but they always seemed too far from your reach? This is how I always felt growing up. My dreams always seemed to be too far from me to reach. I am now in my dream and I can finally see the light at the end of the tunnel. Ever since I was a little child I had always wanted to work outdoors and get a forestry degree. Well in May of 2009 I achieved part of my dream and received my bachelor's degree in forestry.

I was born on June 19, 1966, in Las Vegas, New Mexico and was raised here by my father, who was single up until I was five, when he re-married. My father only had an eighth grade education but I am very proud of him for raising me and my siblings and never complaining about it. I am also a single father raising my two children, a boy and a girl.

I had a very tough childhood, growing up in an underprivileged county. I have seven sisters and three brothers and received a lot of hand me downs. There wasn't much to go around for me and my brothers and sisters, since we were a family of thirteen. My father had to work three jobs to try and make ends meet, since he did not have an education. I don't know how he did it, but he succeeded. He raised all his children with a strong work ethic and taught us to respect our elders and one another. He was a strong advocate for education, and with his help I was able to receive my forestry degree.

I was raised in a poor family, but that didn't stop my father from raising us and teaching us that no one was better than us just because they had more money. After high school I studied environmental sciences at NMHU but was forced to stop and start working to support my two children. I was never given the opportunity to earn a forestry degree since my family didn't have money and the closest forestry program was in Colorado and I didn't have the means to move. After seeing my father struggle so much trying to raise his kids I decided that I must get an education to be a role model for my children and so that I might not have to struggle so much to survive. When NMHU finally opened up its forestry program I enrolled into the four year program, followed my dream and received my forestry degree. I am now currently enrolled in the Master's program, majoring in Natural Resource Management. My masters' project is titled "The Reintroduction of Bison and its effects on Piñon and Juniper". The study site for my project is at the Wind River Ranch, located in Watrous New Mexico. The obstacle's in my life's path have been tremendous and at times overwhelming, but I always remember my father's words when he said to me, "son wherever you go I will be with you, to help you out on your path, I will never leave your side". I always remember his words when I feel that I can't go on.

My work history has taught me a lot about working and the value of the dollar. In 1990 I was hired by San Miguel County to supervise and direct the Computer information services department. I was hired as the Systems Analyst. This job held several duties and consisted of overseeing the mainframe

computer system, running the utility billing system, and running the Emergency 911 rural addressing system. I worked in this capacity for 11 years. This was also a very satisfying job in that I got to help the residents of the community. At the same time I was also working weekends and evenings for Spatial Data Research (SDR). I was responsible for creating a 911 GIS database and mapping system for all of San Miguel Counties rural areas.

Today I encourage all young people, especially Hispanics and minorities to get an education especially in the sciences field. It is the only way to allow you to follow your dreams, no matter how great!