

# A Bit of Me

This series of profiles on SUNY Broome community members is a part of the Student Village diversity calendar initiative. We will be highlighting members in our community who identify with or can speak on the diversity theme or topic for each month.

The theme for April is Culture and the topic is Does culture determine our behaviors and attitudes?

To be featured in this series please reach out to Kalis Nunes .

## Kamilah Grosso

Resident Assistant at the Student Village



**Background:** Kamilah is a certified EMT!

### WHAT IS YOUR CULTURAL BACKGROUND AND IN YOUR OPINION WHAT IS THE MOST DEFINING CHARACTERISTIC OF IT?

I am hispanic, raised and born in Dominican Republic. I think the characteristics that define my backgrounds are how social and bubbly I can be.

### HAVE YOU EVER EXPERIENCED CULTURE SHOCK AND IF YES CAN YOU TELL US MORE ABOUT THE EXPERIENCE?

I have definitely had many cultural shocks and I think one of the biggest was when I first came to this country five years ago. It shocked me how distant people are here, and guess how they say hello to each other I guess, in Dominican Republic we say hello by a kiss and a hug and well here is very contactless lol.

### WHAT'S SOMETHING THAT YOU SEE OUTSIDE OF YOUR CULTURE THAT WOULD BE FROWNED UPON IN IT?

Sometimes I see kids on social media talking back to their parents and disrespecting them which is something that you will not see for sure in my culture.

### WHAT ARE SOMETHINGS THAT ARE CONSIDERED RUDE IN YOUR CULTURE THAT MIGHT NOT BE IN OTHERS?

Not saying hello to every single person when you enter a place or gathering.

### IF YOU COULD CHANGE ONE THING ABOUT YOUR CULTURE WHAT WOULD IT BE?

I don't think there's anything I would change about the culture but I would like to change some people's mind about the fact that some dominicans claim to not to be black when in fact our ancestors were black but that is something that would go long and well people are in title to have their own opinions.

### WHAT ARE SOME PARTS OF A NEW CULTURE IF ANY, THAT YOU'VE PICKED UP OVER TIME?

I think this one goes with what I said below.

## **WHAT'S THE MOST SURPRISING THING FROM ANOTHER CULTURE THAT YOU'VE SEEN OR EXPERIENCED?**

When I came to the US I started in the 10th grade and I became friends with 3 mexican girls and we became really good friends so I 100% love everything about their culture, from music, food and dances. I will always be grateful for them introducing me to this beautiful culture.

## **HAVE YOU EVER FELT LIKE YOU WERE LOSING PART OF YOUR CULTURE?**

No, and I think it would be something really hard to do because of my mom and my family.

## **WHAT IS SOMETHING THAT YOU'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO?**

I am really looking forward to finishing college and starting working and for sure moving out of my moms house.

## **WHAT IS YOUR EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND?**

This is my second year at Broome, I'm a certified EMT and right now I'm working towards a phlebotomy certificate.

## **WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THAT MAJOR?**

I wanted to be one of the first people on scene and help people.