

WEBVTT

1

00:00:00.000 --> 00:00:01.380

Uh Oh,

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00:00:14.320 --> 00:00:17.239

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): you'll have to tell me when you finish reading it.

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00:00:17.750 --> 00:00:24.409

JD Valladares-Williams (he/they): I will. I I have about seventy pages left. Some.

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00:00:24.490 --> 00:00:25.349

It's great

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00:00:42.030 --> 00:00:45.150

Lindsay Morton (she/her): mark. Are you okay with admitting people for now

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00:00:46.180 --> 00:00:47.520

Mark Travis Rivera (he/him): that you

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00:00:47.550 --> 00:00:48.900

Lindsay Morton (she/her): Thank you.

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00:01:33.210 --> 00:01:41.249

Nick Reich (he/him): Thanks. Everyone for joining. We wait just a couple of minutes before we get started, so we can make sure we let everyone that's waiting into the room.

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00:01:41.480 --> 00:01:42.729

Nick Reich (he/him): You're welcome

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00:02:25.150 --> 00:02:43.560

Nick Reich (he/him): while we're waiting for those that are joining us. If you want to introduce yourself in the chat. Um, please feel free to do so where you're you're um joining us from, and if you want to put your linkedin profile in there, so folks can connect. That would be great.

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00:04:14.870 --> 00:04:38.809

Nick Reich (he/him): Well, we will go ahead and get started. Welcome everyone to the November addition of Hummingbird hour. My name is Nick Reich. I. You see him pronouns, and I am the president and chief operating officer here at hummingbird humanity. This is our last hummingbird hour of two thousand and twenty-two. We'll be taking a much needed break for the holidays,

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00:04:38.820 --> 00:05:08.769

Nick Reich (he/him): and in fact, this is going to be our last hummingbird hour uh period we are reimagining and reinventing this approach for twenty twenty-three uh. So while we may not have a hummingbird hours, stay tuned for some exciting news uh with a new series uh that will launch in the New Year. Uh, if you're not following us on social media at hummingbird humanity, or signed up for our Newsletter. Please

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00:05:08.780 --> 00:05:17.139

Nick Reich (he/him): do so for some exciting announcements about what's to come in the New Year here over the next couple of weeks.

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00:05:17.530 --> 00:05:35.569

Nick Reich (he/him): I am extremely excited for today's hummingbird hour. Been waiting for this for a while. I've known our speaker today for a number of years, and i'm extremely excited. So, without further ado I will introduce my colleague, and today's moderator. Jd:

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00:05:36.920 --> 00:05:56.480

JD Valladares-Williams (he/they): Thank you, Nick. Um, Good morning, afternoon. Everyone. Thank you so much for joining us today, for, like Nick, said our last hummingbird hour, very honored to be the one closing this chapter along with our guest for today, Cindy, Nava and um

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00:05:56.510 --> 00:06:10.849

JD Valladares-Williams (he/they): we're so much looking forward to starting this conversation. Uh, first, we would like to talk about some uh things that are uh happening this month. Um,

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00:06:11.330 --> 00:06:14.739

JD Valladares-Williams (he/they): Lindsay, and there we go so

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00:06:14.960 --> 00:06:26.950

JD Valladares-Williams (he/they): first. Um! We wanted to acknowledge a transgender awareness week that is happening this week, which ends with transgender day of remembrance on November twentieth,

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00:06:26.960 --> 00:06:36.529

JD Valladares-Williams (he/they): which is a day um honoring all of those trans folks who um have been victims of violence um

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00:06:36.790 --> 00:06:54.540

JD Valladares-Williams (he/they): all around the globe, but it's also a day to remember that there's also a lot of joy and success and stories that we need to share, so that all of the things that we hear Aren't just tragedies about the trans community, but also of our successes

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00:06:54.550 --> 00:06:57.710

JD Valladares-Williams (he/they): of um, the things we're doing. Um,

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00:06:57.910 --> 00:07:09.000

JD Valladares-Williams (he/they): We We just have our first uh trans men elected for office, so there is a lot of good things to also be thankful and great full, for in this moment

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00:07:10.970 --> 00:07:12.280

JD Valladares-Williams (he/they): Um!

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00:07:12.430 --> 00:07:26.639

JD Valladares-Williams (he/they): And also um! This is a month uh to celebrate the rich and diverse cultures, traditions, and histories of native people. Heritage month is a time to educate the general public about

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00:07:26.650 --> 00:07:46.169

JD Valladares-Williams (he/they): the tribes, about their traditions about the struggles that they're still going through. Um! And one thing that I would like to acknowledge is that, uh, I am currently reciting in Queens, New York, which is the native land of La Linap at people. Um. So I think we should always try to

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00:07:46.840 --> 00:07:57.029

JD Valladares-Williams (he/they): look at history and look at those people that were here before us, and we're displaced. Um as we go into this awareness month for November,

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00:08:00.440 --> 00:08:01.880

JD Valladares-Williams (he/they): and

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00:08:02.110 --> 00:08:23.009

JD Valladares-Williams (he/they): Hummingbird speaks. Hummingbird speaks is um one of our programs we offer that's focusing on amplifying voices and offering uh perspectives on diverse topics. Here we have some of those topics mentioned. Uh: I am a member of Remember, it speaks Um. And

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00:08:23.380 --> 00:08:31.569

JD Valladares-Williams (he/they): if you go to our website, remember Humanitycom, you can see a list of all of those various speakers that we have, and

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00:08:31.600 --> 00:08:48.209

JD Valladares-Williams (he/they): all of the uh rich lived experiences that we bring when we talk about these topics, because we are all coming from a place of having lived some of these things and want to educate everyone else on how they can be allies for every community.

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00:08:52.930 --> 00:08:54.790

JD Valladares-Williams (he/they): And now

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00:08:56.190 --> 00:09:06.489

JD Valladares-Williams (he/they): I like to welcome today's guest, Cindy Nava, and I'm going to uh give a little bit of a bio of Cindy. Um

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00:09:07.680 --> 00:09:22.179

JD Valladares-Williams (he/they): A public policy advocate and former political political strategist. Um Cindy has utilized the power of her lived experiences to empower communities of color, youth and leaders across the country

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00:09:22.190 --> 00:09:39.749

JD Valladares-Williams (he/they): through with her work in areas of policy, education, politics, leadership, development, and advocacy. She believes in strengthening voices through civic

engagement, education and holistic methods. Um rooted and innovative and transformational leadership practices,

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00:09:39.760 --> 00:09:44.229

JD Valladares-Williams (he/they): policies Um the support under served communities across the country.

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00:09:44.630 --> 00:09:53.329

JD Valladares-Williams (he/they): As a former Daca recipient, Rick Cindy has focused on opening access for immigrants interested in politics

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00:09:53.340 --> 00:10:08.479

JD Valladares-Williams (he/they): and begin a pathway to leadership, development and training that creates opportunities for them to serve within those sectors, I mean. For me it is a huge honor to be able to um interview Cindy today, because um

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00:10:08.490 --> 00:10:29.609

JD Valladares-Williams (he/they): as a immigrant myself. Um what she's doing, and what she represents for our community is huge, and I don't think it should be understated whatsoever. Um! She has marked a historical President. Effort after becoming the first undocumented person to intern at a national political party in Washington, Dc.

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00:10:30.290 --> 00:10:45.460

JD Valladares-Williams (he/they): And the first documents recipient to work as a majority pool analyst for the New Mexico House of Representatives. Most recently Re. S. Uh. Cindy has served as a political director under us, Senator Ben Ray Lukan

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00:10:45.470 --> 00:10:52.899

JD Valladares-Williams (he/they): as as chief administrative officer at the United States; Hispanic Leadership Institute in Chicago, Illinois,

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00:10:53.170 --> 00:11:09.860

JD Valladares-Williams (he/they): Cindy, serves as an executive director of transfer education in New Mexico, and most recently obtain an unprecedented White House Presidential appointment, making her the first former Daca recipient in the us to become a political appointee.

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00:11:10.820 --> 00:11:20.009

JD Valladares-Williams (he/they): So, without further ado, I like to introduce you all to Cindy Cindy. Thank you so much for being here with us. Um

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00:11:22.740 --> 00:11:50.600

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): anything else you would like to say before we start. Thank you. Hello, everyone. Thank you all so much for joining us. Um! I am just very grateful for the opportunity to chat with everyone Um! And Big shout out to everyone joining from across the country, i'm monitoring and looking at the Chat Illinois, Miami. Hi, Brianna, um! And all over the country. Thank you all for for sparing some time with us, and thank you for the invitation to Hummingbird. Uh our.

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00:11:51.510 --> 00:12:13.309

JD Valladares-Williams (he/they): Thank you, Cindy. Um. Now, before we start with some questions, I would just like to let everyone know due to Cindy's role. There are questions we won't be able to answer um. But you know we will let you know if that's the case. And also we would really like to focus on the topic of hand which is resiliency and Latin, that in the Us.

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00:12:13.420 --> 00:12:26.210

JD Valladares-Williams (he/they): So let's start there with this conversation, title, generational resiliency, and let you know that in the Us. How would you define? Let you need that in the Us. And what does it mean for you?

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00:12:27.140 --> 00:12:41.729

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): Well, thank you for the question, Judy. Um, I think, and and welcome everyone again. Uh, I think if you need, that can be very different for everyone. Um, I hate it when we're put in a box, and I feel like I've been put in a box my whole life.

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00:12:41.740 --> 00:13:01.190

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): Um. And I grew up in New Mexico. Okay, So go New Mexico. My New Mexico Pride is is incredibly strong, and if you've been to New Mexico you ought to know that you have to come back and eat green chilli. Okay, and it's a greeting or red debate. So when I when I think of what they need um, And when I think of New Mexico

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00:13:01.260 --> 00:13:16.559

CIndy Nava(She-Her-Hers): there's you know. There, there's all these inner dilemmas of how we are identified as Latinos Hispanics not in X. However, we we identify um. There's a battle in between. But it it has so much to do, even with

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00:13:16.570 --> 00:13:29.050

CIndy Nava(She-Her-Hers): academic terms that have been placed upon our people, as if we were some abstract concept which we're not someone's hand it. And as this immigrant kid that I was when I arrived here Um,

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00:13:29.060 --> 00:13:58.649

CIndy Nava(She-Her-Hers): you know from Chihuahua I can't tell you how long it took me to own who I was to be proud of the language that I spoke because I felt so marginalized. I wasn't out there saying I was Latino, or you know none of that. No, um. I was trying to fit into a space that I felt like I didn't belong to, and being undocumented made it ten times worse, because I knew I couldn't do most of the things that my friend my little friends, could

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00:13:58.680 --> 00:13:59.920

CIndy Nava(She-Her-Hers): um,

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00:14:00.030 --> 00:14:15.390

CIndy Nava(She-Her-Hers): and on that note to have to tell you. Growing up in New Mexico. Native American communities have been my brothers and sisters, hand in hand, and the alignment and the overlap of our struggles and hardships

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00:14:15.400 --> 00:14:39.029

CIndy Nava(She-Her-Hers): go hand in hand, and I think we have a lot to learn from one another. So on that note, also acknowledging um native American heritage month. Very important. Um. But that whole notion of identifying who we are, I think we, as Latinos or Hispanics, are very diverse. So, first of all we need to ensure that we're saying that loud and clear we come in all colors, and

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00:14:39.040 --> 00:14:49.479

CIndy Nava(She-Her-Hers): we don't fit a specific prototype. But because leadership and positions of power have for so long. It,

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00:14:49.630 --> 00:15:07.810

Clndy Nava(She-Her-Hers): you know, excluded us from that we haven't been able to say it loud and clear, and say, Hey, even if you, my family, if your family comes from your heritage, comes from Southern Mexico versus Northern Mexico, That is very different. Okay, very different. Um. So I think, learning that those things are our strengths,

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00:15:07.880 --> 00:15:18.960

Clndy Nava(She-Her-Hers): and learning from one another, and working together to build something bigger, that to me is the most important part. I don't care how we define ourselves as Latinos Hispanics, whatever

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00:15:18.970 --> 00:15:33.859

Clndy Nava(She-Her-Hers): we all have value to bring to the table, and we all have something to learn from one another. If we think we don't have anything to learn from one another, then we're done that i'm not doing anything for anyone I quit, so I. I hold myself accountable to that, and then hold others accountable,

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00:15:33.870 --> 00:15:50.350

Clndy Nava(She-Her-Hers): because we shouldn't be here just to a plot our wins. I mean we should be here to learn and to hold hands and to build bigger, build bigger with the broader mindset, and bringing and uplifting our stories. And I think that's something that I carry with me, and I and I see as um

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00:15:50.360 --> 00:16:07.769

Clndy Nava(She-Her-Hers): as something that I have to do, moving forward, especially when I speak to you and young leaders, reminding them how important their language is, how important their culture and those values are. Because I, as a kid wasn't, told those things because my parents lived with so much fear.

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00:16:07.780 --> 00:16:14.680

Clndy Nava(She-Her-Hers): So for me. As you know, I've been branded as a dreamer, as a doctor, as all these things and

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00:16:15.320 --> 00:16:33.549

Clndy Nava(She-Her-Hers): people ask me. Uh you know what you identify as that, and I mean I have to, because that's still that's been my pathway. Um! But when folks speak to me at this notion of like undocumented, unaf, right and unapologetic. I have to push back because my life has been filled with fear,

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00:16:33.560 --> 00:16:39.239

Clndy Nava(She-Her-Hers): and my parents, my parents are still living with that fear, so

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00:16:39.250 --> 00:17:04.040

Clndy Nava(She-Her-Hers): I can't lie to myself, nor to my parents. And look at them in the face and say, Oh, I know we've never been afraid. That's a lie. That's the line for me. Um! And I think we should acknowledge the fact that we have diverse communities. We should be supporting one another, and if one of us wants to be the outsider being loud and clear, and the other one wants to be the insider, there is power and all of that. But the power comes when we work together to build something bigger.

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00:17:05.270 --> 00:17:11.270

JD Valladares-Williams (he/they): Thank you so much, so so many questions to follow that up uh first. Um,

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00:17:11.280 --> 00:17:41.270

JD Valladares-Williams (he/they): I I love what you said about like we are so diverse. It's not a monolith, so there is going to be a difference in opinion, especially when it's scholars. Uh putting these terms. Um, you know, to let you need that. Um, You know there is a lot of uh after Latinos indigenous people who don't feel included in that term, and to your point of native American heritage. Um! I also hear a lot of people saying, it's great that we celebrate Hispanic heritage month, but also when it comes to

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00:17:41.280 --> 00:17:58.489

JD Valladares-Williams (he/they): of American indigenous. There is also that rich culture within Latinos that need to be included in a knowledge there. Um! And to your experience immigrating here. Uh, you know It's something that we've talked about before that I very much relate to, because

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00:17:58.500 --> 00:18:17.609

JD Valladares-Williams (he/they): I also had that experience of coming here at a young age, and while not the same path that you took, it was a path where it took a long time to get naturalized, and there was a lot of living in fear of um not being able to really be yourself, and

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00:18:17.620 --> 00:18:30.709

JD Valladares-Williams (he/they): not knowing really who you are, because you are no longer in your land, yet you don't know which culture you are part of. So if you could just tell me a little bit more about that. Um!

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00:18:30.780 --> 00:18:34.890

JD Valladares-Williams (he/they): Just growing up moving here, and that um

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00:18:36.080 --> 00:18:44.500

JD Valladares-Williams (he/they): that part of like having to hype really part of your identity, because you never know who you can trust. You never know who is going to just

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00:18:44.510 --> 00:19:01.550

JD Valladares-Williams (he/they): in a moment of malice. Just do something that could just affect you and your whole family, and so I know that we have a similar story of Don't. Tell anyone anything about your family, yet. We go to school, and everybody's like. Tell us about your family and your origins.

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00:19:01.560 --> 00:19:06.580

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): Yes, yes, no, that's totally true, and it resonates deeply. Um!

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00:19:07.510 --> 00:19:17.909

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): Because I think one of the things that I struggled with, the most growing up was acceptance, and I didn't accept myself. I didn't accept myself. I didn't accept

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00:19:18.410 --> 00:19:25.640

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): so many things about who I was, because I wanted to be someone else. Um! So for a very long time,

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00:19:25.730 --> 00:19:42.230

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): and ironically, one of my best friends uh who's native American would tell me that she felt that she lived two different lives, and then I said, No, I what I lived two different lives, I mean leaving my home only Spanish what is by you, because my mom would

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00:19:42.420 --> 00:20:12.169

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): not be happy if I was talking English, and she didn't understand um, and then to school where I kept obsessing about pronunciation and ensuring that people

couldn't figure me out, and I didn't hang out with the kids that spoke Spanish. I was I mean a lot of trauma that I didn't even acknowledge until later on, because that's just not even talked about in our families, at least not in mine um, and going to school and pretending to be someone I wasn't was forever something I had to carry out.

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00:20:12.180 --> 00:20:15.889

Cldy Nava(She-Her-Hers): Um. I remember starting to intern at the New Mexico legislature,

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00:20:16.040 --> 00:20:45.639

Cldy Nava(She-Her-Hers): and I was mortified. I mean I couldn't tell anyone that I wasn't documented. DACA wasn't even in place yet. Um, and I remember walking the hallways of the New Mexico Legislature, and I've got to say I mean it might be a bias, but I think we have one of the most incredible legislatures in the country, and it's this round circle that represents the Via symbol for us in New Mexico. So you just go around and it's just like round building. That's really amazing. And I remember the they always have speakers in the rotunda. So in the middle, and I would hear people speak, you know, empowering days depending on what they were celebrating,

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00:20:45.900 --> 00:20:58.610

Cldy Nava(She-Her-Hers): and I looked at them, and I would always wonder and ask: My God, what am I gonna get. To say the truth about who I am, because I started to feel almost like choked because I couldn't see who I was.

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00:20:58.620 --> 00:21:27.220

Cldy Nava(She-Her-Hers): I played it out. No one could guess who I where I was coming from. I had people asking me like, Oh, do you actually know how to speak Spanish, you know. And then, and then I got to the point where they would ask me, How did you speak Spanish? And then I tell them you should ask me how I'd learn to speak English. Um, you know. So it was this ironic battle with myself and acceptance, and I felt like I was someone who I I was pretending to be someone who I wasn't at that legislature for such a long time.

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00:21:27.230 --> 00:21:45.580

Cldy Nava(She-Her-Hers): But then, after starting to find that's when I started to find the importance of mentors, and what they do to change your life. I mean, I don't come from any means. I don't come from any influence. My mother is a housekeeper, and my father is a construction worker until this day, so my life cannot be more ironic

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00:21:45.590 --> 00:21:50.630

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): to go from that to sitting on a panel on the White House one random day. I mean

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00:21:51.060 --> 00:22:02.490

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): to hold the emotions has been something that I I think I just come to the consensus that I will cry for the rest of my life. I it might be internally it might be externally,

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00:22:02.630 --> 00:22:06.389

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): but because I feel that it's been such an ironic life.

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00:22:06.520 --> 00:22:14.810

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): Um, it hasn't been easy, and I think it's important for us to acknowledge, because there's a million Sundays out there. Okay, a million, Cindy's

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00:22:15.320 --> 00:22:30.319

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): And I think i'm not telling just my story, because we're we're all over, and the importance is listening and watching out. And and sometimes we may not be ready to tell you that we're undocumented, and our families

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00:22:30.330 --> 00:22:43.970

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): don't have that backing, and I tell I mean it wasn't until I had daca that I finally was able to say, Oh, my God, okay, I can say it. I can say it because I feel a little bit of a little bit of security. Um,

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00:22:44.100 --> 00:22:58.120

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): but it took me a lifetime, and you know I what it folks when they listen to me now they're like. Oh, you are. So you know we love all the reality that you bring to the table. Blah, blah, blah, and all the truth that you share. And I laugh because

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00:22:58.130 --> 00:23:07.149

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): I tell them I was not like this. Okay, I've only been doing this since two thousand and fifteen, because I was so embedded with fear.

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00:23:07.160 --> 00:23:34.760

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): And the reality is also that I don't think that's ever going to go away doesn't matter what I do doesn't matter how much we accomplish, There is a trauma in there

that forever, I think, will live through, but I hope that I can be sort of an agent to support others coming up those pipelines to ensure that they know that they're not the only ones, and that when we make it that we better get back. I mean again,

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00:23:34.770 --> 00:23:49.159

CIndy Nava(She-Her-Hers): because I've been dissolution from so many people that I admired for many years, and when I got to meet them and how they were, it was it was sad. The sad reality was, you know they they made it, and and they're going to keep going. But they don't have time for you

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00:23:49.170 --> 00:23:58.859

CIndy Nava(She-Her-Hers): and I I that's not me. That's not me. And there are so many people out there, and I just hope to be seen as a lending hand and an ally wherever i'm at.

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00:24:00.200 --> 00:24:02.770

JD Valladares-Williams (he/they): Wow! Thank you um

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00:24:03.200 --> 00:24:07.300

JD Valladares-Williams (he/they): again. So many questions there. But the first one, the

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00:24:07.340 --> 00:24:13.940

JD Valladares-Williams (he/they): what I what I heard, that really resonated with me is the mentors, and that really

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00:24:13.990 --> 00:24:19.599

JD Valladares-Williams (he/they): generational mentorship that you could talk about, and I want to start with

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00:24:20.210 --> 00:24:25.710

JD Valladares-Williams (he/they): with your first inspiration, which is something that

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00:24:25.850 --> 00:24:28.099

JD Valladares-Williams (he/they): we also have in common, that

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00:24:28.490 --> 00:24:37.219

JD Valladares-Williams (he/they): my biggest inspiration has been my grandmother, and so I know that for you your was um

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00:24:37.510 --> 00:24:41.090

JD Valladares-Williams (he/they): really someone who inspired you to

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00:24:41.620 --> 00:24:58.739

JD Valladares-Williams (he/they): take that chance to get an education, to shoot for the stars to really think of all the things you were that were possible. So um! I want you to tell me a little bit more about what having that person in your life meant to you. You know of

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00:24:58.750 --> 00:25:04.129

JD Valladares-Williams (he/they): that person who really just believes in you when you're just so unsure of everything.

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00:25:05.110 --> 00:25:07.520

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): Yeah, thank you. Um,

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00:25:07.690 --> 00:25:12.270

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): yes. I think I've had been very blessed. I until this day. I continue to have

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00:25:12.280 --> 00:25:32.330

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): very a whole lot of mentors. I didn't even know what a mentor was initially. Um, I do! A shout out to Brian Kolone, who, I think, is on there, and he's the New Mexico City Auditor. Um! So many folks have crossed my path, and I think it's important for us to remind ourselves that we ought to be holding ourselves accountable to serve as mentors and supporters to others.

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00:25:32.340 --> 00:25:44.300

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): Um, the very first one that I mean. Of course, my parents, you know, complete inspirations. Um. But my Yeah, yeah, my dad's mom um the special place in my heart. Um.

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00:25:44.310 --> 00:26:02.949

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): And she was essentially. We just saw eye to eye with each other. And you know she was a woman that was out of her time. She was born in a little farming town in Chihuahua. Um. She's an incredibly smart woman. You would think she had like a Phd. Um, but she only had she. She She had, I think, a sixth grade education, and she had to drop out of school, and she would tell me.

108

00:26:03.290 --> 00:26:18.959

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): Oh, Cindy! All I wanted to do was was was learn, and I wanted to be a not I. Didn't even want to get married to your grandpa. But then he appeared, and it's like, Okay, grandma. Thank you. Um, You know she don't want to have kids all of these things that I've never heard women her age say

109

00:26:18.970 --> 00:26:37.609

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): she would tell me um! And then, whenever I would have hard time, because they would visit us twice a year, and whenever I have just hard times i'd go have cried to her, and she would tell me, just ignore people, ignore and keep going. Ignore and just keep going and keep trying hard. So you know it's

110

00:26:37.620 --> 00:26:55.820

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): That was the mentality, because she just saw bigger. She's on broader, and she saw an opportunity, and her dream was to have an education, but she she didn't have the opportunity to do it. Um! So then it gets to to my time, and then I have a lot of people, even within my own family, telling me like, Oh, you don't have papers, Cindy, like

111

00:26:55.900 --> 00:27:02.849

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): you're not going to be able to do much, so try to finish high school if you can. My parents were always very supportive. That that was not that,

112

00:27:02.900 --> 00:27:11.220

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): but a lot of other noise was in the surrounding areas, and all these expectations, cultural expectations that I always sort of went against,

113

00:27:11.350 --> 00:27:15.030

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): and my gale was always there, just very supportive,

114

00:27:15.190 --> 00:27:17.170

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): and I will tell you um.

115

00:27:17.760 --> 00:27:24.110

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): When DACA was implemented there were, there was a lot of pushback because people were not happy. It wasn't enough Blah! Blah blah!

116

00:27:24.590 --> 00:27:38.389

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): Well, again, I'm going to challenge this uh whole thing because DACA changed our lives, and any undocumented person student who is a beneficiary of DACA has to admit this. Um, because it gave us a sense of

117

00:27:39.010 --> 00:27:52.889

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): of um weird empowerment or peace for our families and ability to work um. And further more it gave us the opportunity to travel. So my yeah, I got very sick in two thousand and fifteen,

118

00:27:52.900 --> 00:28:09.560

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): and if it wasn't for DACA I wouldn't have been able to be by her side until her very last heartbeat, and that changed my life. I mean it was. I had never been back since I was a child, and I went into this country that I you know I thought that was home,

119

00:28:09.770 --> 00:28:24.910

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): and then I get there, and they tell me that I'm a and I'm not a I know. What are you talking about. I speak Spanish I am. I am from here, and they tell me. You speak weird Spanish. So it's like, okay, whatever. And I'm in this hospital and

120

00:28:24.920 --> 00:28:30.340

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): just seeing my yeah there laying there so helpless. And my dad on the phone

121

00:28:30.700 --> 00:28:32.370

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): devastated.

122

00:28:32.540 --> 00:28:48.330

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): I I knew I had to be the one pulling it together, and just the way she taught me about being resilient. And even when she was gonna cry she'd hold it together. I knew that I had to do that for her. So you know, I have this little

123

00:28:48.340 --> 00:28:54.570

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): necklace that I wear all the time, and it's like a It's like love, you can, and this is my yet. Yes, so,

124

00:28:54.640 --> 00:29:04.889

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): even though it's been hard to accomplish all these things now, after she's been gone, I know that she walks with me, and whenever I walk into these spaces

125

00:29:05.260 --> 00:29:06.520

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): um

126

00:29:16.550 --> 00:29:22.100

JD Valladares-Williams (he/they): she's with you. She's with us right now.

127

00:29:22.850 --> 00:29:27.350

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): I think the thing is walking into spaces that um

128

00:29:29.720 --> 00:29:34.529

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): that I know her where my parents, you know, will never have the opportunity to be at

129

00:29:34.860 --> 00:29:49.889

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): that to me reminds me of the amount of responsibility that I that I feel, and that I that I carry with me because I don't carry business for Sunday, Not It's. It is not for Cindy. It is

130

00:29:49.900 --> 00:29:59.939

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): about. What can I say that my parents would say that they'll never have the opportunity to say, What would my yeah say? Because they are reflection of our communities across the country.

131

00:30:00.040 --> 00:30:12.669

Clndy Nava(She-Her-Hers): So I just feel very blessed. But I feel a huge sense of responsibility and accountability, because the privileges that I get to have now would not have happened had it not been for all of their sacrifices,

132

00:30:14.380 --> 00:30:15.370

JD Valladares-Williams (he/they): and

133

00:30:15.550 --> 00:30:21.029

JD Valladares-Williams (he/they): and to that generational resilience I want to follow up with um.

134

00:30:23.720 --> 00:30:32.860

JD Valladares-Williams (he/they): They obviously your your grandma and my grandma like had tough lives. And then their kids

135

00:30:33.320 --> 00:30:35.799

JD Valladares-Williams (he/they): came to this country and worked

136

00:30:36.940 --> 00:30:42.450

JD Valladares-Williams (he/they): a lot of hours a lot of hours of the day, so that we could have an education, and

137

00:30:42.580 --> 00:30:54.869

JD Valladares-Williams (he/they): that also meant that we had to grow up very fast. We had to become adults and do things on our own, because our parents were surviving. And so

138

00:30:56.190 --> 00:31:01.180

JD Valladares-Williams (he/they): could you tell me a little bit about that resiliency, because it's really

139

00:31:01.530 --> 00:31:04.470

JD Valladares-Williams (he/they): what you've been able to accomplish

140

00:31:04.630 --> 00:31:07.529

JD Valladares-Williams (he/they): in these three generations is

141

00:31:09.120 --> 00:31:11.059

JD Valladares-Williams (he/they): all inspiring to me

142

00:31:11.220 --> 00:31:22.720

JD Valladares-Williams (he/they): in that it's really you. You are the embodiment of all of those dreams, but it did it's it didn't come easy. I know that it was also hard for you to

143

00:31:23.070 --> 00:31:33.740

JD Valladares-Williams (he/they): be that tough person and have to be an adult and really show up in that way when other kids were just running around playing having fun.

144

00:31:35.580 --> 00:31:38.969

CIndy Nava(She-Her-Hers): Yeah, it's It's it's real um,

145

00:31:40.140 --> 00:31:58.510

CIndy Nava(She-Her-Hers): I mean. Gosh, it's just It's so much um, you know, from as far back as like remembering and thinking about doing sports in school, and I I saw my little friends do them, and then I couldn't, because my parents didn't have the money, and I couldn't go anywhere near any border,

146

00:31:58.520 --> 00:32:00.470

CIndy Nava(She-Her-Hers): any border town. So

147

00:32:00.590 --> 00:32:12.090

CIndy Nava(She-Her-Hers): I had to start asking all these questions early, and even though it was so confusing at the beginning, um. I quickly learned it. You know you don't have this nine digit number which plays a huge role in everything you'll ever be able to do

148

00:32:12.200 --> 00:32:23.820

CIndy Nava(She-Her-Hers): so. It was like this border wall thing that was placed in front of me without even trying like, Oh, yeah, you can aspire. But there is this wall uh you can dream, but there is a block,

149

00:32:24.210 --> 00:32:35.799

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): so I I I think I've been going to my heart life, and I did. I do feel like I had to pull myself together earlier than any of my other friends. Um,

150

00:32:35.840 --> 00:32:49.060

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): because I saw how hard my parents worked, and until this day they were so incredibly hard, and i'm very proud. And sometimes they tell me, like Aren't, you embarrassed to to say what we do,

151

00:32:49.390 --> 00:33:05.429

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): and I've got to tell you, because as a kid, all of this shame that I had inside me, and it's probably one of my biggest regrets because I was ashamed of where I came from. I was ashamed of the language. I was ashamed of what my parents did. I was ashamed of being for everything, but that became

152

00:33:05.440 --> 00:33:14.720

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): the biggest sort of like slap in the face for me, because that is my biggest strength. That is, that is what motivates me every single day

153

00:33:15.160 --> 00:33:29.820

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): that I feel that my life is so ironic. Um, because I call my mom, and I call my dad and go down that. Oh, i'm living in the I guess that, or cleaning at home, or fixing this house, or you know I mean

154

00:33:30.320 --> 00:33:38.419

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): Ha! It's just I any, any any of the jobs that I ever have, and I have told this to myself, and I tell this to others.

155

00:33:38.630 --> 00:33:41.700

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): Never, never will I have

156

00:33:41.900 --> 00:34:01.009

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): a job as difficult as the the ones that they've done, and as a things that they have to do, just provide. And the you know the disrespect that they've been faced with um and all of those ironies, and and I take that to heart because they are devoted folks, and they are here because of my siblings and I

157

00:34:01.020 --> 00:34:01.950
Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): um,

158

00:34:02.450 --> 00:34:08.439
Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): and had they not done that we wouldn't be here, and of course this notion of resilience. Um,

159

00:34:08.520 --> 00:34:24.419
Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): they uh, you know somebody just like last week they asked me, Hey, Cindy, because of your story. Blah blah, blah! We want to know. Do you think resilience could be taught to? We have a course. I sat there. I was thinking about it. Okay, this is very interesting. Um.

160

00:34:24.429 --> 00:34:32.870
Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): And I I told this guy. Well, I hope you don't think that I took a course on resilience. Um, because that was that was not what happened. Um,

161

00:34:33.239 --> 00:34:34.350
Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): but

162

00:34:34.760 --> 00:34:54.599
Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): those things those things just happen, I think you know, and we make decisions throughout life that that make us, you know, take those tough choices and and we decide. But I think, acknowledging the work that others do, so that we can do better. That is so important. Um!

163

00:34:54.630 --> 00:35:01.430
Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): And I remember I remember seeing my parents do this their entire life. Um! They used to clean a library when we were little,

164

00:35:01.670 --> 00:35:19.529
Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): and I remember them taking us to the library in the evenings like eight o'clock, because no one can watch us, and they would tell us, okay symptoms and Nucky like in this little corner. You guys can play with the books. I'm sure that was probably not supposed to happen. Okay, but we just sat there and read books. Um!

165

00:35:20.250 --> 00:35:24.650

Clndy Nava(She-Her-Hers): And they would go and pull out the trash cans and change the trash.

166

00:35:24.920 --> 00:35:44.880

Clndy Nava(She-Her-Hers): And then, many years later, I passed by this this library? Oh, my gosh! And I just sat there crying, because that's the library that my parents used to, you know, to clean um. So this happened throughout our entire lives, and they got to the point where we were helping. My parents, you know, change out the trash. So

167

00:35:46.030 --> 00:35:50.550

Clndy Nava(She-Her-Hers): in all of my roles. Now, whenever I see the cleaning people,

168

00:35:50.690 --> 00:36:00.089

Clndy Nava(She-Her-Hers): I can't even explain to you what it means to smile and to say hello to them, because I see my parents in them

169

00:36:00.390 --> 00:36:12.109

Clndy Nava(She-Her-Hers): and the people that i'm working with. That's not necessarily the space that they come from. So I think it's a little weird to them sometimes. Um! But I think those are the spaces where we need to be at, because

170

00:36:12.340 --> 00:36:22.100

Clndy Nava(She-Her-Hers): hard work is hard work, and we need to be acknowledged and applied for it, and I don't think communities are, you know, have that enough? So

171

00:36:22.130 --> 00:36:23.390

Clndy Nava(She-Her-Hers): it's,

172

00:36:23.630 --> 00:36:35.960

Clndy Nava(She-Her-Hers): I think, forever. I will forever feel sort of out of place. Um, but I have learned that it is so important to say those things in those spaces, because if I don't say them,

173

00:36:35.970 --> 00:37:00.420

Clndy Nava(She-Her-Hers): no one will say them. Um! And that is the responsibility that I think that I think we should be conscious enough to carry out and to be willing to to work with other,

so that we can improve those spaces for the future folks that are going to be coming and and aspiring to these things in these positions. Um, and thankfully, we live in a country where I believe that we absolutely can. Um, but I think that takes hard work and collaborative efforts.

174

00:37:01.580 --> 00:37:14.779

JD Valladares-Williams (he/they): I I love that you talk about acknowledgment, and particularly for people in service roles, because my dad is a server, and I remember growing up. I

175

00:37:14.870 --> 00:37:22.620

JD Valladares-Williams (he/they): I didn't want to say that sometimes in school, when people are like Oh, my! That is a professor, and my mom is a doctor. And

176

00:37:22.910 --> 00:37:27.060

JD Valladares-Williams (he/they): and now, looking back, it feels so silly because it's.

177

00:37:27.870 --> 00:37:31.370

JD Valladares-Williams (he/they): Wow! There is really so much pride in

178

00:37:31.820 --> 00:37:44.999

JD Valladares-Williams (he/they): all of that hard work, and all the effort that it took for us to get to where we are now, and to acknowledge those people, and saying hello to them and smiling,

179

00:37:45.030 --> 00:37:57.860

JD Valladares-Williams (he/they): It makes them feel visible because so many people don't acknowledge them in those spaces, and it's it's to your point about responsibility. It's a responsibility to

180

00:37:58.120 --> 00:38:01.240

JD Valladares-Williams (he/they): make sure those people feel seen and heard

181

00:38:01.370 --> 00:38:19.789

JD Valladares-Williams (he/they): that they are not just doing this job, and they don't really matter. It's no we see you, and we thank you for what you're doing, because we know that with this effort. You are doing things for your children. You are trying to advance other things, and so to never let that go un, acknowledged.

182

00:38:20.680 --> 00:38:37.590

JD Valladares-Williams (he/they): Um, I want to talk about um, acknowledging also other people that you've mentioned helped you along the way. You know. We talked about your yah as a mentor. Then there's also been other mentors. Um in your life, such as Michelle Grisham.

183

00:38:37.600 --> 00:38:50.029

JD Valladares-Williams (he/they): Um who um invited you to the White House? So if you could tell me about that experience of just what it means for someone to open those doors for you and help you along the way.

184

00:38:50.660 --> 00:38:55.539

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): Yeah, thank you. I mean, I got. I can't even tell you the amount of mentors I've had. But

185

00:38:55.740 --> 00:39:15.210

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): um. So, Michelle, the Hungarisham was a Congresswoman in two thousand and fifteen, which I think That's when I went to the White House for the first time. She's now sitting Governor of New Mexico. Um. And uh, I had no status. Yeah, okay. I didn't have Daca yet? Nothing, and I remember getting this call from someone in her staff. And

186

00:39:15.220 --> 00:39:32.190

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): um. They asked me, Hey, what are you doing for single miu. It was like we need. I don't know nothing. I don't you and um, And they said, Well, the congresswoman wants to invite you, and I didn't know where they said Dc. And then they said the White House and I was like dying on the phone crying, and

187

00:39:32.290 --> 00:39:49.549

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): and then, you know, my parents were like, absolutely not. What do you mean? You're gonna get deported like how you can't go. And I said, No, they they assured me i'm gonna be fine, I mean I was kind of a risk. Um. So I remember, you know I I get to Dc. And

188

00:39:50.150 --> 00:40:01.199

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): I had already been a Dc. For like engagement and things that I had been like just involved in as a student. Um, but I remember uh getting picked up and get being taken to the White House with her, and, you know,

189

00:40:01.220 --> 00:40:09.399

Clndy Nava(She-Her-Hers): going through security, and I mean my stomach was hurting. But then I remember just walking in. Oh, and

190

00:40:09.790 --> 00:40:12.149

Clndy Nava(She-Her-Hers): and I remember her telling me, Are you okay?

191

00:40:12.270 --> 00:40:18.680

Clndy Nava(She-Her-Hers): I said, Yeah, I mean, I just start looking at the walls and all of these folks that I've been studying right my entire life,

192

00:40:18.870 --> 00:40:24.010

Clndy Nava(She-Her-Hers): and I know that i'm completely undocumented, and I don't know how in the world I I got in um,

193

00:40:24.250 --> 00:40:35.790

Clndy Nava(She-Her-Hers): and it was it? Was it, was it I? I don't even have enough words to tell you what what I felt at that moment. Um! I felt seen. I feel that that's the word I felt saying,

194

00:40:35.850 --> 00:40:39.460

Clndy Nava(She-Her-Hers): and I felt like I belonged.

195

00:40:39.470 --> 00:40:57.829

Clndy Nava(She-Her-Hers): And um it was. It was life changing. Um! That same day I got to visit. So then, Vice President Home, who was now our current president, and actually got to talk to him. Uh, actually cried, and he cleaned my peers um, and I spoke to him about being undocumented, and you know

196

00:40:58.660 --> 00:41:05.440

Clndy Nava(She-Her-Hers): the fact that we don't necessarily get those opportunities, especially as someone who is who comes from the places that I come from,

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00:41:05.540 --> 00:41:24.679

Clndy Nava(She-Her-Hers): I mean Maya Willos and Chihuahua. And it was before my yeah, yeah passed away. They were booming on the phone watching the news to see if they came out

with, you know, with the and to talk to them and tell them. And and you know, have this discussion with them and see their excitement. That to me was

198

00:41:24.970 --> 00:41:33.109

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): everything. Um, so it was life changing, and I told her that. And I said, I just want you to know

199

00:41:33.120 --> 00:41:46.789

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): that you didn't just change my life. You just changed the lives of my entire family, of my who were sitting in Chihuahua trying to watch the news to see if I pop out anywhere. Um! But my parents, who are in disbelief and mortified. Um,

200

00:41:46.800 --> 00:42:02.540

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): you know. So so those things I think, need to be acknowledged as well. That just one little thing. You may think that you're doing something very small for someone, and that becomes life changing and transformative for them, so that I've seen that along my journey, and

201

00:42:03.010 --> 00:42:21.290

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): I've i'm i'm very i'm very blunt about the fact that it's important to be grateful, but to not forget that we are going to get the opportunity one day to replicate that and to do it for someone else. Um, because it's so important. And when we again don't come from access,

202

00:42:21.520 --> 00:42:38.600

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): we don't have a view, or the that can be like Oh, i'm going to take you to Congress. So i'm going to take you to a visit to the Legislature That doesn't happen. I mean that there is no way. I mean, yeah, like, maybe my deal with the cleaning lady, but like they're not gonna. They don't have the ability to take you um. So

203

00:42:38.610 --> 00:42:45.899

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): for me to be able to get into these spaces, where I've always sort of been the the solo player in there.

204

00:42:45.910 --> 00:43:10.790

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): Um! That's forced me to ensure that i'm talking, and that i'm speaking, because if I don't do it now, you less it um, and learning to be proud of where I come

from. And now i'm very intentional. Okay, about even speaking Spanish in places where people are like. Oh, what um! And I do it on purpose. I do it on purpose, because now I have this privilege of being able to be in the darn room

205

00:43:10.800 --> 00:43:20.200

CIndy Nava(She-Her-Hers): that I know others don't so I have to do it, and sometimes I ask myself and say I don't know if I you know

206

00:43:20.210 --> 00:43:35.629

CIndy Nava(She-Her-Hers): to be blunt, sometimes painfully blunt, but I think it's important because we are not some abstract concept. Our communities are not an abstract concept, and I think the acknowledgment of recognizing the issues that we have to deal with day in and day out

207

00:43:35.640 --> 00:43:51.089

CIndy Nava(She-Her-Hers): is very important, and we need to ensure that those people are coming up those those pathways to serve in those leadership position, so that these people understand the power, the resilience and the just the empowerment that can be that can be generated if we

208

00:43:51.100 --> 00:43:57.509

CIndy Nava(She-Her-Hers): diverse those folks and leadership, because I think it matters, and representation absolutely. Matter.

209

00:43:58.150 --> 00:44:14.090

JD Valladares-Williams (he/they): Representation absolutely matters, and you are really living proof of that for so many Daca dreamers. I mean it's you you are showing, by example, what can be achievable. You know

210

00:44:14.100 --> 00:44:23.910

JD Valladares-Williams (he/they): the things that you weren't able to hear from others when you were growing up you can now just actually show like, Hey, here I am you you can do it.

211

00:44:23.920 --> 00:44:41.069

JD Valladares-Williams (he/they): Um, but I I know it wasn't always like that that you know you talk about being scared, and you know of not knowing where you are, and about a simulation like we as kids. You kind of just assimilate to this. Um,

212

00:44:41.110 --> 00:44:43.010

JD Valladares-Williams (he/they): If you could tell me,

213

00:44:43.790 --> 00:44:49.160

JD Valladares-Williams (he/they): how did you? How did you arrive to being like

214

00:44:49.600 --> 00:44:55.469

JD Valladares-Williams (he/they): proud of those routes, and like reconnecting with those roots? Especially as

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00:44:55.480 --> 00:45:10.629

JD Valladares-Williams (he/they): you know, when you go back home? And I've had this to It's you sound weird. You don't talk the same, and it's don't uh don't talk while we're at the market, cause they'll raise the prices of things. And so how

216

00:45:10.750 --> 00:45:23.439

JD Valladares-Williams (he/they): how were you able to navigate that and get to a place where you like? Actually, you know, maybe i'm not, for here or there. But I still have all of this rich culture that's part of me, and i'm proud of that.

217

00:45:24.960 --> 00:45:34.300

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): Uh, I think I was forced into. I I have to tell you I think I was. I had no option. I had no option, because

218

00:45:34.530 --> 00:45:44.629

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): I still Haven't had even that the opportunity to spend as much time as I probably I mean now, you know, in Mexico, and and reconnect because my only

219

00:45:44.920 --> 00:45:47.049

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): I think I mean it's been.

220

00:45:47.600 --> 00:46:07.310

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): It's been hard because of the the times when I went back to Mexico, where it was because my grandmother passed away, and then my passed away, and I

had to play the role that my father wasn't able to play. So there's a lot of pain, and i'm always fearful, and I haven't been back, and since my Ohio passed away, and it's been over two years now,

221

00:46:07.800 --> 00:46:13.390

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): and and there is it. The pain is just very real, and I

222

00:46:13.960 --> 00:46:24.189

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): it's I can't even describe it. So I haven't had the opportunity, I think, to reconnect with the country where I was born, you know, and and then maximizing it,

223

00:46:24.320 --> 00:46:27.939

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): but in terms of sort of accepting and being proud,

224

00:46:28.570 --> 00:46:32.339

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): it was because I kept being in places

225

00:46:32.380 --> 00:46:36.659

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): where I heard others diminish. People like my parents,

226

00:46:36.750 --> 00:46:39.239

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): and if Cindy didn't say anything

227

00:46:39.830 --> 00:46:57.630

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): they I was. I was passing so I would pass for whatever I wanted to be, and I didn't I sounded like them, so they didn't question me. So they weren't going to say like, Oh, no, yeah, these immigrants Well, they're good people. Um. I kept being in spaces where I heard people diminishing people like my parents,

228

00:46:57.960 --> 00:47:10.279

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): and that was it I just I had enough like I. Something clicked, and I started speaking out and saying, Well, No, you know what I i'm. My parents are immigrants. I'm an immigrant, and

229

00:47:10.290 --> 00:47:17.979

Clndy Nava(She-Her-Hers): and then that's when I started to even, you know, speak Spanish and and say things, and then I had the opportunity to even testify um at the Legislature,

230

00:47:18.110 --> 00:47:26.209

Clndy Nava(She-Her-Hers): which was really outing myself there. That was very scary. Um, because some members were not necessarily going to be the biggest fans that I knew that.

231

00:47:26.220 --> 00:47:49.720

Clndy Nava(She-Her-Hers): But I spent a lot of time as an intern for free, because I couldn't be paid. Um! But there were some legislators that gave me the opportunity to just say, Hey, do you want to come today or this week, or whatever. So I did that over and over and over again for like ten years, and to the point where I knew everyone and everyone loved me. But they didn't know who Cindy really was. So then, by the time that I said the truth,

232

00:47:49.970 --> 00:47:55.449

Clndy Nava(She-Her-Hers): it was funny because I had one people over, and then they couldn't just come back and hate me, and

233

00:47:55.530 --> 00:48:14.169

Clndy Nava(She-Her-Hers): I established relationships across the aisle. And you know I mean all of those things because he saw me as a human, not as oh, this person, or you know, whatever they wanted to call me. They saw me as a human, and as someone who was trying to do something bigger for more than myself, and

234

00:48:14.180 --> 00:48:33.450

Clndy Nava(She-Her-Hers): I knew that once I was in those in those roles I mean even a student government in college. Okay? Um, What I was trying to join, they told me. Oh, you can't do it because we can't. You? Don't have a social so we can't. We can't give you the stipend. Well, I went. If that had an advocate, another leader of one of the Latino um

235

00:48:33.460 --> 00:48:49.690

Clndy Nava(She-Her-Hers): uh the Latino resource center at the university. She went and had a whole conversation with this other woman. They ended up giving me my stipend. I became uh gosh! I was Government relations director so, and you know, and they told me we've never had anyone undocumented. So we don't know how to do this,

236

00:48:49.700 --> 00:49:08.259

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): so I think I've played this weird role of like having to teach people over and over and over and over, and we're learning together because I don't know the process, and they didn't know the process, and they were fearful. So I started to speak up more and more and more because I was breaking into these weird little spaces where there weren't other cindy's.

237

00:49:08.270 --> 00:49:13.009

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): But then, after I asked those questions, and they were like, Oh, I guess we can do it

238

00:49:13.020 --> 00:49:41.479

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): So it's about, I think really I mean, I think it's really important to to to as uncomfortable as it is to get in to come into spaces where we are not represented. I think those are the most important places to be at, because we need to challenge the fact that our communities are changing. Our demographics are shifting, and we need that representation at the table. Just one random person can't claim to understand all communities

239

00:49:41.490 --> 00:49:51.329

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): and claim to to know what's in their best interest or our best interest. Um, because I always tell them it's like this whole notion of immigration reform. And when we talk about,

240

00:49:51.690 --> 00:49:59.130

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): you know the the hassle between um being able to come together right consensus, I would always say, Well,

241

00:49:59.140 --> 00:50:21.240

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): if you I think it's probably easier for you to go. Advocate. If you don't have to go back and look at your parents faces who don't have any type of access? Because if you saw them, and if you wanted to ask my Dad, Dad, would you prefer to have even some sort of a visa initially, you know, to start off with? Or would you just all only want citizenship and nothing at all, because that's what's happened before,

242

00:50:21.250 --> 00:50:41.639

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): and he laughs and says that's ridiculous. I I will start wherever I need to start, to prove whoever I need to prove, because I This is what I've been doing, and this is what I'll continue to do, and I'm going to continue working regardless. So the resilience that my parents and my dad just carried through has woken me up many times

243

00:50:41.650 --> 00:50:48.240

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): uh because they don't even have to tell me they don't have to say, and my dad will say, Oh, no, I don't know I I don't like to speak in public and blah blah blah.

244

00:50:48.410 --> 00:51:02.270

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): But my dad quietly. His actions speak louder than words. So to me that's what matters, and I think it's important to look beyond our own life, and how we're affected because we can't make it all about ourselves.

245

00:51:02.280 --> 00:51:15.889

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): Look at your community. Look at who you're representing. Look at who you're truly working with, and how they're affected. Don't look at just yourself, because sure we can. You know we can do parties for ourselves about. You know our struggles and our dilemmas,

246

00:51:15.900 --> 00:51:30.080

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): but we're not lonely at this game. We are much bigger, broad our country, and we are so diverse, and I think we need to ensure that those stories are being told, and that we're they're being uplifted, and that we don't get stuck into this game of egocentrism of of just being ourselves.

247

00:51:31.230 --> 00:51:46.690

JD Valladares-Williams (he/they): Hmm. Thank you, Cindy. Um. Of course i'd love to also acknowledge your parents and and all of their work, and, like you said, speaking through actions. But I also want to acknowledge you, because I heard you say something that I always

248

00:51:46.700 --> 00:51:55.720

JD Valladares-Williams (he/they): say is, I didn't have a choice, but I feel like there is always a choice to whether you want to take this on or not, and so

249

00:51:55.910 --> 00:52:00.389

JD Valladares-Williams (he/they): there's there's a lot of credit to be given there of that

250

00:52:00.570 --> 00:52:03.060

JD Valladares-Williams (he/they): You chose the harder path

251

00:52:03.150 --> 00:52:14.940

JD Valladares-Williams (he/they): so that it would be easier for those to come after you. So I want to close with another question, and then pass it to the questions that folks are asking,

252

00:52:14.950 --> 00:52:23.469

JD Valladares-Williams (he/they): What? What is your vision for the future for both yourself and for future generations of Latinos Latinos?

253

00:52:23.480 --> 00:52:35.150

JD Valladares-Williams (he/they): Um, who, you know, want to get involved in and social and political issues, and really pursue the the dream that you know our parents have wanted for us

254

00:52:36.260 --> 00:52:43.780

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): a lot of vision. Um, very hopeful. I am an optimist. My heart um,

255

00:52:44.150 --> 00:53:02.510

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): I hate it, I hate, I i'm not a fan of pessimism. And I because I think because I've seen my parents go work through these struggles Right? Um, and always just with the head up. So to me it's about just continuing to expand opportunities and expense spaces

256

00:53:02.520 --> 00:53:20.260

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): for us and for others to have the opportunity to also shine, to also uplift those communities that have not been there at the table. Um to create spaces where we are leading, where our communities are sitting in leadership positions because

257

00:53:20.580 --> 00:53:30.639

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): it shouldn't be about the leadership position. But unfortunately it matters because there's positions that get made, and who better to speak on those issues and those that have lived in.

258

00:53:30.650 --> 00:53:57.500

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): Uh. So I think that is very important to me. The whole notion of representation is real, and I carry it co-heartedly. Um! And it needs to be across sectors and it's to be politically, and it's to be, you know, the nonprofit or all that needs to be. I mean, in all

sectors having our communities be represented at the table and leading those conversations is incredibly important as a woman. It's incredibly important because we have to.

259

00:53:57.510 --> 00:54:10.509

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): It's sort of another layer of challenges that we're adding to the table. Um, So to me it's very important to also empower and uplift young women uh of color, and and remind them of how valuable their voices are. Um!

260

00:54:10.550 --> 00:54:28.400

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): And as someone who struggled with a lot of these issues of acceptance, and even, you know, body, image, acceptance of like. Oh, I met it never enough, or all these things that are imposed upon you. It's it's really extra important to me to ensure that we are creating these spaces and opening them and ensuring that we are

261

00:54:29.710 --> 00:54:40.779

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): helping and supporting people into leadership positions to ensure that the policies that are created and the future that lies ahead has more opportunities for those that are coming.

262

00:54:43.230 --> 00:54:46.300

JD Valladares-Williams (he/they): Thank you so much to me. It's

263

00:54:46.450 --> 00:55:12.469

JD Valladares-Williams (he/they): I I just really I could talk to you all day. But um, I I do also want to get to some of the questions that folks are asking, and please uh everyone in the chat. If you have any questions for Cindy, we still have a few minutes left. Um! One person asked. Um. I like to ask Cindy how she manages and carried carries the privilege, power, and responsibility

264

00:55:12.480 --> 00:55:16.420

JD Valladares-Williams (he/they): that comes with being a first generation professional.

265

00:55:17.390 --> 00:55:33.500

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): Well, thank you, thank you all. And, by the way, I've been looking at the chat, so thank you for for the love and support. I'm really really grateful. Um like what is on um, And okay. So how I manage the being a first Gen. Professional and everything else right?

266

00:55:33.590 --> 00:55:45.829

JD Valladares-Williams (he/they): Yes, uh, how do you carry that privilege, power, and responsibility, but also celebration of being a first generation professional in this country?

267

00:55:46.670 --> 00:55:56.290

JD Valladares-Williams (he/they): Um, Lindsey, Do you know?

268

00:55:56.980 --> 00:55:58.430

CIndy Nava(She-Her-Hers): Uh

269

00:55:59.040 --> 00:56:12.480

CIndy Nava(She-Her-Hers): I it's it was submitted, and i'm sorry. Well, anonymous anonymous individual. Uh thank you for your question. Um, I just I It's been a learning game. It's been a learning game.

270

00:56:12.550 --> 00:56:19.229

CIndy Nava(She-Her-Hers): They day after day, year after year, Um, you know, like throws

271

00:56:19.540 --> 00:56:23.210

CIndy Nava(She-Her-Hers): throws hardships at us, left and right. Um,

272

00:56:23.550 --> 00:56:42.419

CIndy Nava(She-Her-Hers): So being a professional to me is just, I mean, I feel privileged to the to be. I mean to be called a professional, you know, First J. So I don't even take it into account, because I think that sort of the hardships that have been that I've had to overcome have been so much more difficult for me um

273

00:56:42.430 --> 00:56:44.460

CIndy Nava(She-Her-Hers): and more traumatic. Uh,

274

00:56:44.580 --> 00:56:45.919

CIndy Nava(She-Her-Hers): but

275

00:56:46.040 --> 00:57:02.369

CIndy Nava(She-Her-Hers): one of those hardships last year, By the way, just to add up on my interesting life a weirdly interesting um at this random headache last year ended up being a brain tumor, everyone, thank God, of non cancerous brain tumor. But anyway, I ended up undergoing brain surgery last

276

00:57:02.720 --> 00:57:16.259

CIndy Nava(She-Her-Hers): a year ago August. Uh yeah, one year ago. So I was. My life was put on pause, and it was horrendous, and I couldn't believe it. And I was angry, and I was mad, and I was upset, and I was fearful.

277

00:57:16.640 --> 00:57:24.999

CIndy Nava(She-Her-Hers): And then I reminded myself, and I said, Oh, my gosh! I think my whole life has been prepping me for this. So when I go into surgery, if I don't come out

278

00:57:26.390 --> 00:57:43.630

CIndy Nava(She-Her-Hers): that's got, and that's the path, and i'm going to be thank you, thankful for what I've had, and for the time that I've had. But if I come out and I come out alive and well, then, I know that there's so much ahead, and I have to do it even better. And lo and behold, I came out. Okay, So

279

00:57:43.740 --> 00:57:54.189

CIndy Nava(She-Her-Hers): to me. I mean all of those things the fact that i'm alive. But i'm grateful for um, because I didn't expect that to happen to me. Um! And

280

00:57:54.200 --> 00:58:10.779

CIndy Nava(She-Her-Hers): to think of all those things that, being a professional and all those responsibilities to me is just, you know. Carry forward Cindy, and continue doing more. And remember. I mean it's for a broader reason, because you just you don't have life secured, and um to have to learn that.

281

00:58:10.850 --> 00:58:17.709

CIndy Nava(She-Her-Hers): So you know, at this age has been interesting. Um, but it takes me back to my yeah, yeah.

282

00:58:17.780 --> 00:58:34.050

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): And the fact that you know that that resilience lives within everyone. And I think you just nurture it, and you just carry forward on that. And with that optimism in mind, um, you know, and I think things work. They work out. They really do.

283

00:58:35.760 --> 00:58:47.000

Mark Travis Rivera (he/him): Thank you, Cindy. Um, I see Mark has his hand raised, if any of the comment. Um, so I did. I told you questions. I was like. I think I just have time for a comment.

284

00:58:47.110 --> 00:59:05.149

Mark Travis Rivera (he/him): Sydney. I I met Oprah once in New York City, and at the Apollo we went to her event for super soul. Sunday conversations, and she was speaking to yar, So he did the act as an activist um from Blackish and Granish, and she had repeated a quote that my Angelou said to her, which was

285

00:59:05.300 --> 00:59:06.560

Mark Travis Rivera (he/him): Baby,

286

00:59:07.680 --> 00:59:11.179

Mark Travis Rivera (he/him): Your future is so bright, it burns my eyes.

287

00:59:12.240 --> 00:59:15.319

Mark Travis Rivera (he/him): And what I think about you what you represent.

288

00:59:16.160 --> 00:59:19.010

Mark Travis Rivera (he/him): It caused me to get emotional. It also causes my

289

00:59:19.160 --> 00:59:37.120

Mark Travis Rivera (he/him): my eyes to burn, because your future is still bright, and we need more people like you. Any stories like yours amplified, shared. So I want to thank you for sharing your story with us today. I want to thank you for all of your hard work uh and making this time possible, knowing your schedule, and I want to thank Jd.

290

00:59:37.130 --> 00:59:43.160

Mark Travis Rivera (he/him): For being a best-long conduit and moderator for this conversation because it was deeply, deeply moving.

291

00:59:43.260 --> 00:59:45.110

Mark Travis Rivera (he/him): And thank you both.

292

00:59:46.110 --> 01:00:04.380

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): Thank you all so much, and however I can be of help and resource, and thank you. Jd: Yes, and I think my linkedin file is pro was was thrown in there, but if not just sending all the i'm. I'm on on social. I'm always happy to help, and always here to be a supportive pen and to continue moving forward.

293

01:00:04.870 --> 01:00:16.680

JD Valladares-Williams (he/they): Thank you, Cindy. I'd like to close with one thing, and just hear any other thoughts you have on it something that you shared in your Tedx talk that I watched. This hope gives us courage.

294

01:00:19.760 --> 01:00:23.599

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): I live by that I

295

01:00:23.760 --> 01:00:34.820

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): I live by that unless, and being in the midst of that brain surgery, that's exactly where it took me back to that. Hope gave me the courage. Um! And I think moving forward,

296

01:00:34.830 --> 01:00:48.909

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): that's what will carry me forward with everything that I do with the aspirations that I've yet to tackle um, you know, and if one day I get to serve in any shape, we are form in an elected fashion. Um,

297

01:00:48.920 --> 01:01:18.199

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): that's something, I think that i'll hold very close to my heart, and and I encourage everyone to hold it close to their hearts. Um! To carry us forward, because life isn't easy, and every single one of you has has their own challenges. But I just want to thank you for whatever your work and your willingness to spend this time with us, because you're acknowledging the importance of this conversation, and I think again holding hands and and walking. This path in a unified fashion, makes us all better,

298

01:01:18.210 --> 01:01:27.030

Cindy Nava(She-Her-Hers): and I think we we expand the table for those that need to be here. So that's those are my my closing words. But thank you all so much.

299

01:01:27.610 --> 01:01:42.980

JD Valladares-Williams (he/they): Thank you so much for this conversation, Cindy, and you definitely make me feel hopeful. You definitely make me feel more courageous about just being able to do things in the world. So thank you so much for spending this time with us. I want to thank everyone who

300

01:01:42.990 --> 01:01:59.249

JD Valladares-Williams (he/they): came up and showed up today to hear our conversation, and I hope everybody has a wonderful rest of their day, and continues: Um! This message of hope and of courage Thank you so much.