

1 = Interviewer

2 = Interviewee

1: Hi there. How are you doing?

2: I'm good.

1: Do you want to tell us a little bit about yourself.

2: I am a 55 years old immigrant from Romania. Sorry for the accent.

1: Don't worry about it, I think it adds to the authenticity of the interview. So, the purpose of this interview and ultimately this project is to basically get a bunch of people from different walks of life and figure out how they have overcome their obstacles in life as well as find out what resilience means to them specifically. So, what does resilience mean to you?

2: Resilience to me is the opposite of giving up, is the fuel that keeps you focused on reaching the objectives you have set for yourself or even for others. People may associate it with stubbornness, and it could be at times; however the presence of hardship makes the difference.

1: Excellent definition. So how in your life as an immigrant have you had to show resilience?

2: My personal experience is well, yes, the immigration is a drama, it is a difficult process that starts right after you realize that all the connections, social, cultural, material you had before are now all gone and you know down there that your success depends on them. Suddenly you are by yourself in a world you know nothing about. I clearly remember the first thoughts I had when I got here: first I must survive, and then I must prove to this new world that I deserve their acceptance. That was my base line. Sure, you may have people around you with, advices and assurances, but even those were new and not tested by your filters. First it started with the necessity to communicate. The language barrier is the first test of your resilience. You have to accept and do whatever it takes to gain the necessary skills to be able to tell people

who you are and what are you made from. For about first 3 years, I have worked in a factory doing engineering work and any other tasks were given to me, but I didn't care a bit about compensation aspect of my job. The long run objectives were more important, and I stayed focus on even though there were people offering me more money other tedious things. I knew that I have to stay in, learn the system (MFG business), go to school a few nights a week, deliver pizza over the weekends and get prepared for the next major opportunity. And it came! For the next `4 years I had the privilege to work and be payed accordingly, as a full engineer in a aerospace company building rockets motors used by NASA and DOD in space exploration projects. It was all worth it. I was very close to fulfill my second target: nobody could say that accepting me here was a mistake!!

1: Wow so clearly the juice was worth the squeeze?

2: What?

1: Never mind. Has there been any other situations where you showed resilience in the States?

2: One more example was related with project that our company committed for. It was indeed something new, never made before on our premises or by anybody else. Nothing was easy, and there was a moment when the top management was willing to give up. I was the only one that believed, and told everybody that if we give up we are not respecting our company founders (45 years ago) who showed nothing but resilience creating a new product line and new industry. The project continued and by an honest mistake we found a solution for the challenges we were facing. The rest is history, the project resulted in a \$100M / 4 year long contract. It was a superball for us. It may sounds cliché but these things still happen.

1: Alright, well thank you for your time, I really appreciate it.

2: Thank you.