

WHY

Williams?



By:

Miranda Villanueva

WHY Williams?

The story of a 1st Gen Latina
College Student



COUNSELOR

Sometimes misguided
but tries to do what
she thinks is best for
students.



TEACHER

Committed to his
students' success &
well-being.



MOM

Borderline helicopter
mom who doesn't
want her only child
to ever leave.



DAD

Typical macho
Mexican father
who occasionally
surprises everyone
with his words.



1st Gen Latina

The girl who has to make
choices and live through
the consequences of those
choices.

LOS ANGELES, CA:

summer before senior year
of high school.

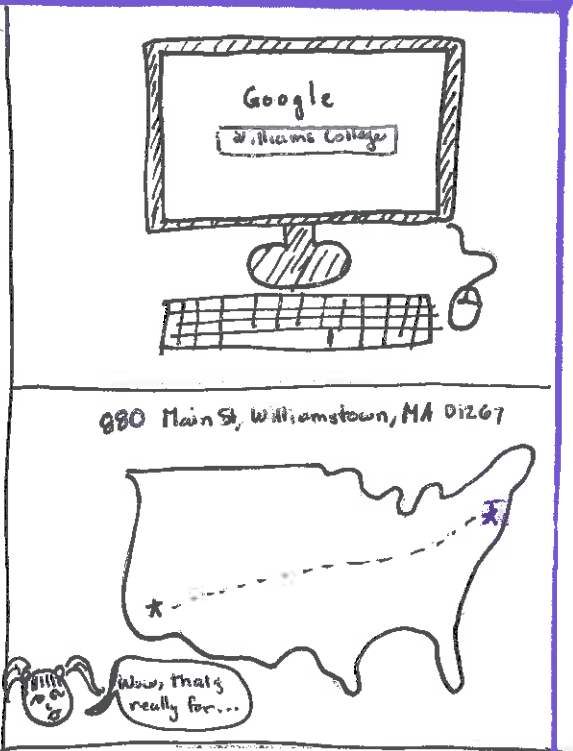
From: Erica Guevara <eguevara@email.nvance.com>
Date: June 13, 2013, 8:20:11 AM PDT
To: Miranda Villanueva <mirandavillanueva50@yahoo.com>
Subject: Williams overnight program
Reply-To: Erica Guevara <eguevara@agljliance.org>

Hi,

I hope your summer is off to a great start. Please see the link below to apply for the Williams overnight program. Williams is a top liberal arts school in the East Coast. It is a highly competitive school and this is a great opportunity to visit the campus.

<https://williams-uga.edu/185i.net/survey/?id=104>

Ms. Guevara



August 16, 2013 9:02 AM

two months after submitting & forgetting
about the WOW application:

Dear Miranda,

Congratulations!

After careful review of your Windows on Williams (WOW) application, I am thrilled to inform you that you have been selected to be a WOW participant this fall!

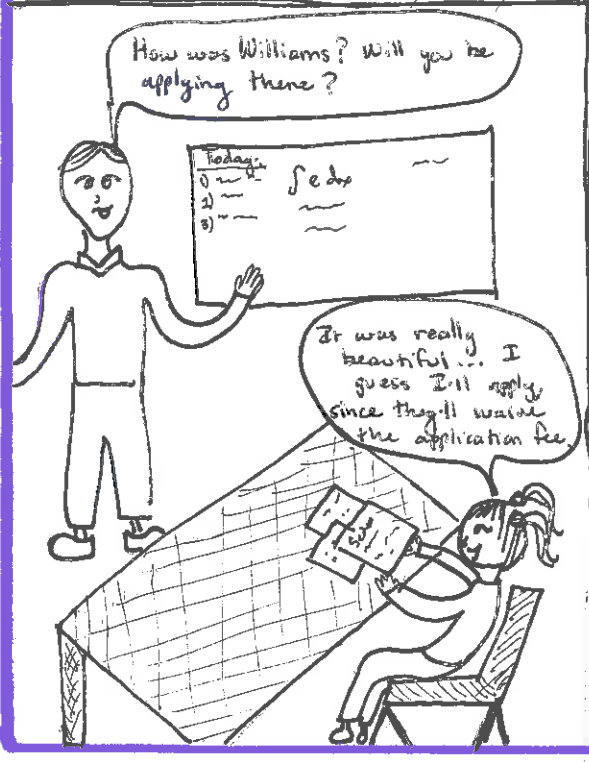
Each year, we receive approximately 600 WOW applications for only 150 spots. Your selection for WOW is a strong first step in your application process to Williams, and we hope your three-day WOW experience will give you a sense of the incredible resources and opportunities available to our students and will allow you to envision spending your next four years here.

This year's programs will run during September 26th-28th and October 10th-12th – please choose the date that best accommodates your schedule. Simply use the following link to register by **Thursday, September 6th**. Please note that this link is unique to you and should not be shared with others.



Williams is beautiful! The trees, the seasons, the buildings... never seen anything like this before! but.....

I don't fit in here, Everyone is so different from me. I feel so homesick, I don't think I'll ever come here but I'm glad I got to visit.



Williams

March 6, 2014

Miranda Villanueva
1820 Hancock St
Los Angeles, CA 90031-3479

Dear Miranda,

On behalf of all of us here at Williams, I'm delighted to offer you admission to the Class of 2018.
Congratulations!

Williams

YOU got IN!



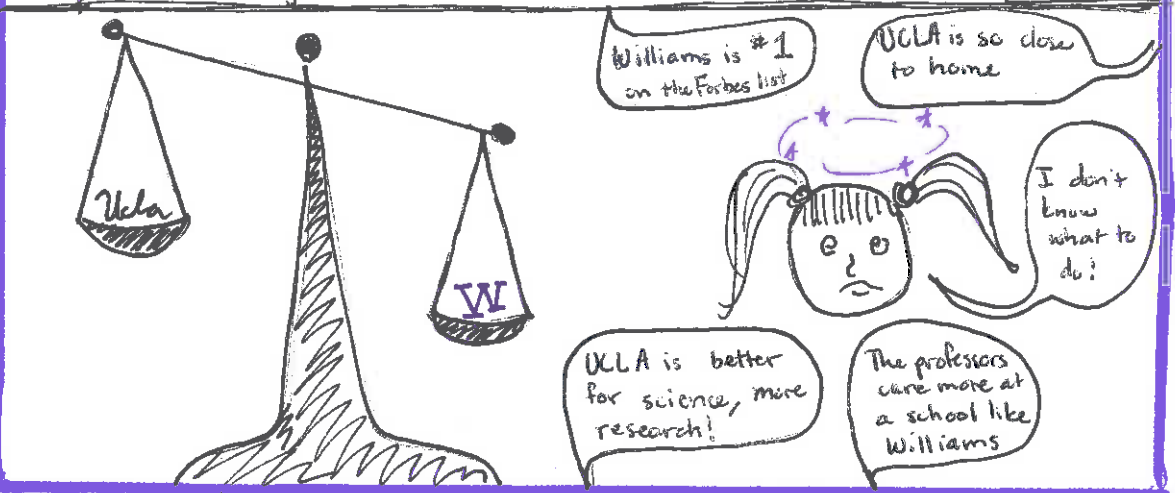
Williams

Dear Miranda,

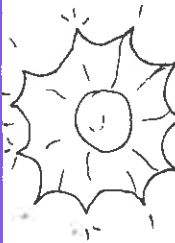
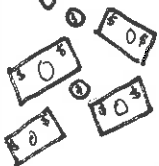
Your 2014-2015 financial award is below.

----- : \$#

Family Contribution: \$0



Ucla



It was a really hard choice to make; UCLA or Williams. Two completely different schools I needed to choose between. I had to choose between my family and everything I knew and loved or a strange, far away place where I felt like I didn't belong. I wanted more than anything to stay in Los Angeles, my home... but at the end of the day, it all came down to one very important factor for a first generation Latina college student: financial aid. My family could not afford what UCLA was expecting us to pay while Williams was offering a full ride, books included. Yes, Williams is a great school. Yes, the size of the campus and student body was a better fit for me and yes, I would get more one-on-one attention from professors at a small liberal arts school but there was a reason why I mainly applied to schools in CA. My family is very important, and because they are, I acted strong and chose Williams because I didn't want my parents to struggle financially even more. It's been one of the most difficult decisions but it's also been one of the best. Yes, I still feel like an outsider here, the token "diverse" student but I've made great friends. I've learned so much and I've grown so much. Life at Williams has been hard. I chose Williams because of financial aid but given the option again, I would still choose Williams because it changes you for the better.

