

**INTERVIEW ASSIGNMENT: PATRICIA RIOS**



Patricia Rios is the acting director at El Paso's Chihuahueta Recreation Center, located downtown along the El Paso-Juarez border.

Patty, as she likes to be called, was born in Ciudad Juarez, and moved to El Paso after her second child's birth, to pursue a better education for her children. She is now a single mother of four, with a master's degree in Education from the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP), working for the El Paso Parks and Recreation Department.

Patty was commissioned as a pastor and had started a church in Juarez to where she traveled back and forth between her home in El Paso, but with the increasing violence in Juarez, it has since closed down. She described hearing gunshots two houses down from the church and how she feels unsafe as a woman to walk around the streets. Years ago, when she was 15, it was safe and common for children to be playing outside on the streets past midnight, but it is not the case anymore.

Patty explained about the prevalent machismo culture in Mexico, and how it has directly affected her own social circle of relatives; she says it's causing women to become victims of domestic violence and increasing the number of single mothers.

Although she is permanently settled in El Paso, she regularly crosses the border to visit her father.

**✓ Dimensions of Difference**

Mental/Physical Variation:	No Diagnosed Variations
Age/Generation:	Generation X
Socioeconomic Status/Class:	Middle Class

Ethnicity:	Latina
Gender:	Female
Locality:	Suburban
Occupation:	Recreation Center Director
Organization:	City of El Paso
Nationality:	Mexican/US Citizen
Region:	Southern
Religion:	Christian
Sexual Orientation/Preference:	Unknown

**✓ Storti Scales**

**Concept of Self**

Patty spends much of her time surrounded by family, including her children's own children and her many siblings and their children. She jokingly insists that the joy of those gatherings centers around food. Some of her favorite are enchiladas and chilaquiles. Community is important to her and believes places like the community recreation center where she works at are important and valuable.



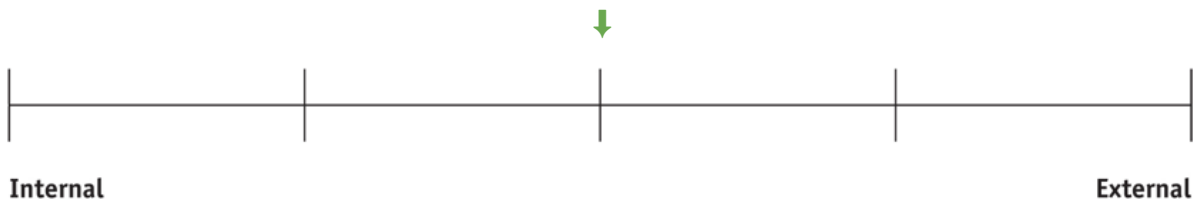
**Time and Other People**

While attending UTEP, she was instructed by professors that late-comers would not be allowed inside the classroom. She quickly learned and adapted to the strict schedule that most Americans follow. She says that Mexicans will, without fail, be late to meetings and is expected to occur at her family gatherings.



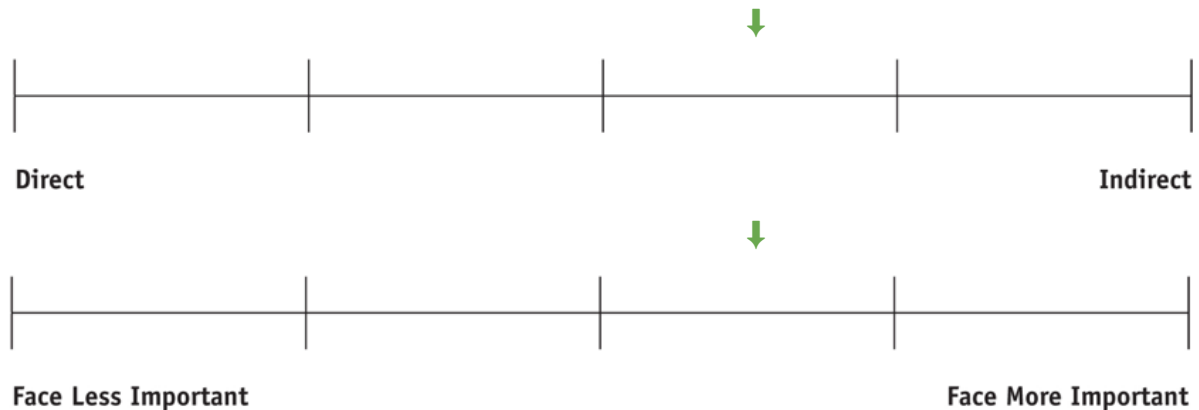
### **Locus of Control**

Patty is optimistic but also realistic about the future. She likes to see everything in a positive light and works toward positive outcomes. As a recent naturalized US citizen, however, she is not happy with where things in US politics are going. One of her main concerns is with abortion, considering it to be a crime on par with murder. Though she is not happy with it, she understands that the majority's opinion is different from hers and not much can be done to change that.

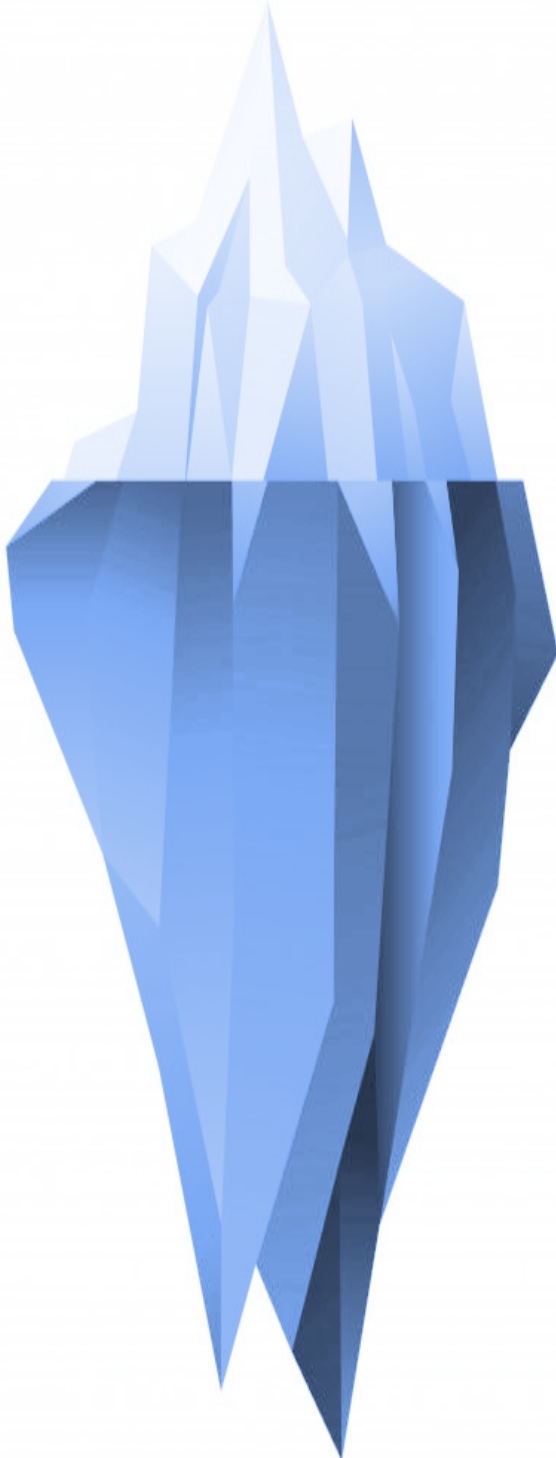


### **Degree of Directness/Importance of Face**

Patty goes against her culture's tendency to be blunt and direct. She believes that people are sensitive and not all have the maturity to be able to handle blunt and direct comments. Especially at her workplace, she only likes to address those things that are essential for preserving harmony and safety, and because she cares about people's feelings, she does so by addressing them in private.



## ✓ Iceberg Model



### **Level I**

Patty speaks Spanish and English. She smiles a lot and is very welcoming. As I asked questions she was attentively watching over what was happening in the room as an elderly group were walking around the room while learning from a volunteer doctor about arthritis prevention. She was very expressive and talkative when answering all my questions. She gave me a big warm hug when I shared that I too was a Christian, and another one to say goodbye.

### **Level II**

In her household, and workplace alike, alcohol, drugs, and cigarettes are big noes, this also going against the Mexican cultural norm.

### **Level III**

Nature of/with Supernatural:

Patty was a student at UTEP when she watched a documentary on Discovery Channel proving the existence of hell. She shared her curiosity and skepticism about it with her Christian friend who later invited her to a Christian conference about the topic, and where she became a Christian herself. She believes in God the father, in Jesus being the word of God, and the Holy Spirit that helps and enlightens us.