

"How I Got Here: Heriberto—Student-focused Video"

Heriberto: My name is Heriberto, and I'm from Brownsville, and I run a robotics company. Robots are my life. When I was a child, I began playing with Legos, and I would build boats, cars, airplanes, and later on at the age of 14, I built my first robot from scratch. When I first flipped on the switch and it came to life, I was hooked on robotics. I had no idea I'd be pursuing robotics as a career. I was a [inaudible 00:05:26] student back in high school and it was all about preparing and getting into college. What helped me the most was I took AP courses while in high school. Calculus, English, History, Spanish. These AP courses gave me an insight into the college life and the rigorous curriculum that college courses require. I wanted that challenge, I wanted to advance my studies, and the Advanced Placement courses I took definitely helped me prepare for college. Scholarship committees are looking for students that are taking these AP courses. Because I took these courses while in high school, I was able to skip these course in college and save a lot of money in the process. They can even help you graduate college early.

I went to University of Texas at Brownsville and I graduated with a Bachelor's in Computer Science. From there, I went to an internship at NASA to develop software for the next mission to Mars. Then I came back to the valley to kick-start my own robotics company called Reybotics. We developed six-legged robots, four-legged robots, and robotic arms. The robotic arm can pick up small objects. You can do this number here. We developed educational based robotics kits for middle schools and high schools across the nation. My robotics helped teach concepts in physics for students who don't have a way into robotics. When you ask, "So what do you do for fun?" It's like, "This is fun."

I also work on medical robots. In the future, we're going to have very large robotic arms doing surgery on humans. We need to practice on these robots instead of practicing on real humans. Robotics is not just toys. You can develop exoskeletons for the military. You can develop drones that can do surveillance. Everything you see around you is produced by robots, some way or another. Thanks.

In order for me to pursue my passion for robotics, I knew that college was key. Taking these AP courses were also key. These AP courses might seem scary, it might seem dumb to you, but focus on the end goal. Your passion, your interests, what career you want to pursue. I always say, "Dream big, start small." As it turns out, I began playing with Legos and I had no idea I would be starting up my own robotics company.