



The Right Place

Veronica del Carmen Rodriguez Pena, *New America School* Class of 2018



Veronica del Carmen Rodriguez Pena

“challenges conventions, breaks norms, and questions the status quo, giving her classmates a peer-model of nonconformity and critical thinking, and for this I am incredibly grateful,” reports Veronica’s Language Arts teacher, Brian Sleevei.

Veronica came to NAS-Thornton as a Spanish only speaker; after just two years, she is writing and illustrating English language short stories and posting them online.

She was the leader of NAS-Thornton’s Destination Imagination team, a STEM competition in which the Thornton delegation won first place in the Colorado north regional tournament and second in the Colorado state tourney.

Her dream is to pursue a career as a graphic designer and illustrator, which she will begin by earning a two-year degree in Graphic Design from the Community College of Denver. However, this goal is just a means to an end. Veronica’s lifelong ambition is “to leave a mark in our community through something that I really love and something that personally marks me as a person: art.”