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Una voz interminable para fortalecer nuestras tradiciones

El 29 de Octubre del 2006 mis padres tomaron la decisión de dejar su país en busca de un futuro mejor. Ellos dejaron todo atrás incluyendo su familia, amigos, e incluso su trabajo. Ellos tomaron esa decisión porque sabían que en El Salvador las oportunidades de salir adelante eran bien escasas y claro les querían brindar un mejor futuro a sus hijos, sabiendo que aquí tenían la oportunidad de crecer y salir adelante. Como cada hispano que viene aquí, ellos venían con miedo llegando a un inmenso país donde tenían prácticamente que empezar de cero, no sabiendo si iban a poder lograr darle a sus hijos una vida mejor.

Ahora, 12 años después, mis padres se dan cuenta que si valio la pena venir a Houston porque con mucho esfuerzo si lograron destacarse y sacarnos a mi hermano y a mí adelante. Pero ellos no pensaron que fueran a encontrarse con un mundo que compartieran sus mismas ideas, tradiciones, y valores. Ahora, yo desde mi punto de vista me he dado cuenta que mis padres no tenían mucho que temer, porque mientras han pasado los años los hispanos nos hemos convertido en una gran comunidad unida que ha influido y hecho un gran cambio en Estados Unidos.

Primero, comenzando por la buena vibra y alegría que traemos a este país. Donde quiera que vayamos vemos esos restaurantes salvadoreños, hondureños, cubanos, mexicanos, etc, que son visitados muy frecuentemente por los americanos, especialmente cuando se trata de esos ricos tacos y enchiladas. También resalta esa música tan alegre que traemos como, la salsa, bachata, merengue , que cada vez se prolonga más en el país. Otra cosa que ha impactado mucho en este país es nuestro idioma. En cada trabajo que vayas siempre es más probable que seas contratado si hablas inglés y español. La comunidad hispanohablante se ha vuelto tan grande que hoy en día es necesario aprender el español porque se ha convertido un idioma fundamental para el país.

Algo que los hispanos tenemos inculcado en nuestras raíces y valores es que somos gente luchadora. Yo siempre he visto al hispano como gente que nunca se da por vencida, no importando qué obstáculo se les cruce en el camino. Esa persistencia es algo nativo de nosotros, es algo que traemos en nuestra sangre, y lo hemos dado a demostrar en este país. Cada día ves a gente hispana abrir sus negocios o a un joven hispano graduarse de la universidad. Esta nación está llena de arquitectos, ingenieros, maestros, doctores , por nombrar algunos, que han venido de nuestros países hispanos y se han convertido en profesionales. Ellos han llegado ha obtener esos logros porque han luchado por sus sueños. El hispano ha levantado el país con su gran esfuerzo laboral.

Quizás como mis padres todos han venido a este país con temor de no saber qué esperar, pero míranos ahora, todos hemos crecido y creado un impacto increíble en la cultura americana. Aunque venimos de diferentes países, todos venimos con una meta en mente y eso es luchar por un mejor futuro. Mas no sabemos que hemos logrado más que eso, hemos impactado a este país con nuestras tradiciones, culturas, y valores. Durante los años que han pasado, la voz hispana se ha extendido, profundizado, y ha demostrado que no tiene límite ante nada.

Good evening distinguished board members, parents and teachers,

On October 29, 2006 my parents made the unimaginable decision to leave their country in hopes of a better future. They left everything behind including their family, friends, and jobs. They made that decision because they knew that in El Salvador the opportunities to succeed were very limited and of course they wanted to provide a better future to their kids. My parents knew that here we would have a much better opportunity to grow and succeed. Like every Hispanic that comes to this country, they came with an intense amount of fear coming to a humongous country where they had to practically start from zero, not knowing if they would in fact be able to give their kids a better future.

Now, 12 years later, my parents realize that coming to Houston WAS worth it because with a lot of hard work they WERE able to succeed and give my brother and me the chance of a better education such as the one that Spring ISD has provided for us. But there is one thing that my parents did not think that they would encounter in this strange new land, which is a world that would actually SHARE their similar ideas, traditions, and values as those of the Hispanic culture. Now, from my own point of view I have realized that my parents really didn't have much to fear because while the years have passed, us Hispanics, have come together to form one big united community that has influenced and has made a great change in the United States.

First, starting with the good vibe and happiness that we transmit to this country: and of course I'm talking about the tradition of FOOD!!! Wherever you go you see those Salvadoran, Honduran, Cuban and Mexican restaurants that are frequently visited by Americans... because let's get real, what would Americans do without Tex Mex food? Can you imagine the city of Houston without chips and salsa, chile con queso tacos and enchiladas? I don't think so! I wouldn't want to even think about that either!

Second, Hispanics resonate that lively tradition of music that we give like salsa, bachata, merengue, that every time it expands more and more in this country. Now it is not unusual to hear an American teenager singing in Spanish songs like "Despacito" and even some rap songs that are now trendy to sing in Spanish.

Another important thing that has impacted greatly this country is our language. In every job that we go it is always more likely that you would be hired if you speak both English and Spanish. The Spanish-speaking community has become so big that nowadays it is necessary to learn Spanish because it has become a fundamental language for the country.

Something we Hispanics have inculcated in our roots and values is that we are fighters. I have always viewed Hispanics as being people who never give up, no matter what obstacle comes their way. That persistence is something native to us, is something that we carry in our blood, and we have shown that in this country. Every day you see Hispanic people open their businesses or a young Hispanic graduate from college. This nation is full of architects, engineers, teachers, doctors, to name a few, that have come from our Hispanic countries without much education, yet have grown into professionals once the United States has given them the opportunity to do so. Latinos have come to pursue these achievements because they have fought for their dreams. Just looking at the construction of freeways, homes and buildings, Hispanics have played an important role in raising this country with their hard work.

Maybe like my parents everyone has come to this country with fear of not knowing what to expect, but look at us now, we all have grown and created an incredible impact in the American culture. Although we come from different countries, we all have come with a goal in mind and that is to fight for a better future. But we do not know that we have accomplished far more than that, we have impacted this country with our traditions, culture, and values. While the years have passed the Hispanic voice has extended, deepened, and has demonstrated that there is no limit to anything that we can do!!