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Dreams

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Dreams

Maricela Palafox

Those dreams we are all trying to fulfill are for our parents, of course, also for ourselves, but it's more for them. It's the joy in their eyes that is going to be the most fulfilling thing when they see that you have made it, graduated and surpassed them in life. It's them saying, "Yo no pude porque mis padres no tenían dinero. Y ese no es tu caso, tú sí vas a poder." In other words, "You don't have a legit excuse for not going to school because money is not an issue and we are not making you work at an early age as my parents had me do."

Parents have this mind set when coming to the United States that if they work hard enough they could someday be able to own their own house. That's what really drives them to keep going in life. When life happens, however, as with having babies, sometimes they have to put their dreams on pause and put all their focus on their kids. My parents started saying when I was very young, "You have to go to school and do well. That's your only job!" They made sure they got all our school supplies we needed to start our new school year. That is how they started to get us thinking that education is the only way out that the path to a good life is through school.

Education is always a topic that is brought up during the holidays, "How are you doing in school? How are things?" and, "When are you going to be done?" I like when some family members know when to stop. We all have those nosy uncles and aunts that just like to point things out and give their opinions that sometimes just get us so mad. I have noticed that the people in my family who went to college seem to be more understanding of what it really means to attend college. They tend to be more off-your-back and let you enjoy your vacation instead of talking about school because they know that is the last topic anyone wants to talk about. I really like that they understand when to back-off. The

ones that didn't really attend college have a more narrow understanding of how tough it can get. They just think college is more schooling, which it is, but it's also harder.

The dream I am in pursuit of is getting my college diploma. That dream is what I am truly working for. Sometimes I just want to throw in the towel and say, "I'm done with all this!" I've wanted to do this so many times already! The only thing that keeps me going is that I'm almost done, so I just have to keep pushing. One challenge of being a college student is that you are learning more about yourself and then you have to make a decision about your life or career. This process is not something that comes easily because it makes you doubt everything you have done and it also makes you rethink if this is something that is worth all this stress.

Who would have thought that school could drain you emotionally, mentally, and physically? Man! Why didn't anybody mention that this was going to happen? I know they said college was going to be hard, but the things I am talking about are hard at another level. We do these things to make our parents proud, and of course for us too. Don't get me wrong, sometimes I do question why am I still in school if being here doesn't make me happy. Most of the time I feel mad because of all the stuff that needs to be done. Of course things don't just magically get done by themselves, I wish they did sometimes! Sometimes it feels like a drag to come to school, but I realize that I just need to keep on pushing; I am almost there. The struggle is so real. Figuring yourself out along the way is too.