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The Fight For A Mural

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The Fight For A Mural

By Jennifer Celio-Aburto



In November of 2021 we were told that the school board rejected our proposal to have a mural so we decided to organize and bring people who supported a Latinx mural to come and voice their opinions on why we disagreed with their decision. On January 13, 2022 we all went to the meeting and I spoke out and this is what I said:

Hello, my name is Jennifer Celio-Aburto. I am the vice president of the Latinx club and a senior at Eureka High. I am here to support the mural project and give my opinion as to why.

I have always felt like an outsider. And I strongly believe that my environment is guilty of this feeling. I grew up in a white neighborhood. We were the only Mexican family on the block and among the few Hispanic students at my elementary school.

My parents were born and raised in Mexico. They immigrated to America to seek a better life; in the same way many of our ancestors did too. At that time, my father was the only one who financially provided. While my mother dedicated her time to teaching three of her children to speak, write, and read in English.

My family and I do not have any family relatives in Humboldt. We have a couple of dispersed second cousins in the United States, but not any close relatives. All of my family lives in Mexico. When my parents came to the US they left their family behind for a while before they were able to go back and see them. However, there are many people who can't go back because they're undocumented. This is a HUGE reason as to why we need murals at our school. There are students who don't know anything about their culture or where they come from. But having this mural will allow everyone to be represented, including parents.

Latinx culture is greatly underrepresented at Eureka High such that the only place my culture is seen is Spanish classes and the Latinx club. The Spanish and language department has done a phenomenal job to include culture and diversity, allowing for everyone to feel a part of a united community. I want to thank Tim Olson for creating the Latinx club. It has been such an impactful experience that has allowed me to feel seen and to socially flourish. He has granted me the opportunity to lead students and to share my ideas with them. It is something that I have never done before or even pictured doing.

Moreover, it has brought me to consider the importance of bilingual students who did not have the same opportunity of having two dedicated and involved parents. My involvement in my community and intent to give back to my community has led me to seek a career as a bilingual teacher to impact Hispanic communities.

While I plan to go to a four-year university, I often feel held back, such that I fall into a certain mindset where I am convinced that I can't do it because how can I do something that big?

So if I can't get a few board members to change their mind and agree that this mural project is beneficial to my community. Then how can I change the world?

Considering the social issues in today's world; we should be encouraged to fight for a better future, to dream big, and to celebrate our heritage. But instead we are being discouraged from doing so.

To conclude my statement, I would like to encourage you all to be empathetic towards myself and everyone else who is in support of this project because this project is for the people.

Thank you.

After my words, the School Board approved of the mural. We won a mural! They gave us \$1,600 to create a mural and we are in the process of making this happen.