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El Maestro

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El Maestro

By Jose Zacarias

307,470 teachers,
307, 470 teachers in CA
21% of those are Latinx
And of that, only 5.8 % are men
5.8%!
I am the 5.8%

What does this mean for you?
for me?

You might never see me.
I might never see a person like me.

When you think of a K-12 teacher
what's the first thing that comes to mind?
When you search teacher in Google images
What are the first images you receive?
In California
over 50% of public school students look like me
I am them and they are me.

But you know
I have been blessed
I am the lucky one
The one who has
Experienced a caring
Latinx male teacher.

One teacher throughout my whole K-12 experience. One, that was it!
He represented me.
He was the **one**
who looked like me,
who understood me,
who could relate to me
and laugh with me.

That one and only teacher
pushed me to apply to college,
helped me fill out
FAFSA,
Calstate
and EOP applications.

That one and only teacher
taught me how to apply for loans
what to accept and not accept.

That one and only teacher
had enough trust in me
to co-sign my first apartment

I am the lucky one

And today
As I graduate with my
BA and Elementary credentials
I want to pay it forward
To strengthen
our community!

