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“Tribute to Success”

Everybody has a story. Many have relatable stories. Others, they have life easier. As a high school student, I have grown up to overcome any struggle because I choose to be successful. If I ever decided to allow a challenge to define who I am, I would not have the sense of fulfillment in accomplishing a challenge.

In the documentary, “Camp to Campus,” many of the interviewees had inspiring stories. However, a handful stood out. The most intriguing stories are Andres Rico, Laura Hasting, and Carlos Mendoza. It is remarkable how many of the interviewees had the perseverance to continue their education. Many did not know what college was or the meaning of a successful life. In McFarland, many students attend continuation school due to their wrong social associations, thus fall behind in credits; however, Andres Rico attended continuation because he constantly missed school due to migrating. The most intriguing story is Carlos Mendoza’s; a stranger brought him illegally into the U.S. Laura Hasting, she pushed herself every day. In comparison to others, Laura sought for self-motivation within and taught herself the material she lacked.

As I watched the documentary, I felt as if I have been in most, if not all, of the interviewees’ shoes. I did not work at a young age, but every morning, my parents would wake me up to take me to a babysitter before they left to work at five a.m. However, my parents have never gone higher than a minimum wage job due to their elementary education. My father follows the grape harvest and my mother is a cook at a Vallarta Supermarket kitchen. Even though I live with both parents, there are moments as if I am the parent to my youngest sister. As a result of my mother’s hectic schedule she is unable to spend time with us and my dad, he usually is in his own world. Like Laura, I always need to seek self-motivation for my sister and myself, otherwise where would we be?

Furthermore, having a challenge in my life gives me a new direction. It directs me into a path of success. Even though I have very little interaction with my mom, she always told me to strive for what is ahead of me. Since my dad spends approximately one fourth of his paycheck on cigarettes and the other three fourths on bills, during the summers I work. I have worked in the grape harvest. Experiencing what many of the interviewees have been through is no joke. It is a hassle having to wake up at four a.m. to make breakfast, get ready, and leave to work to arrive at 6:30 a.m. The part I disliked the most is my height and having to duck underneath the branches, otherwise I would get hit. In addition, the heat is the worst part about working in the grapes. Overall, the experience is horrible, but the paycheck at the end of every week is worth the struggle.

Finally, it does not matter where we come from or what we do. As long as we know what we want in life, that is sufficient. As a high school student, I know what I want and I still have the opportunity to grasp it. However, my parents do not. They gave up, and by seeing that, it gives me more motivation to succeed in

life. Every interviewee in “Camp to Campus” is a perfect example of perseverance to success.