Martin Lagunas Nava

People say that the American Dream is gone. I think otherwise. Everybody has a different way of interpreting what it means to them. For some it many be living in riches and for others it could be having a house to call their own. Everyone's dream is different. In my essay I will tell you what Julian Castro's words mean to me. His quote is important to me because it talks about starting from the bottom, improving along the way, and passing our fruits of labor to the next generation.

I am a first child of five. It's not always easy because you have to set a good example for your younger brothers. My parents started from the bottom in this country. They both came here illegally from Mexico in hopes of securing a better lifestyle for their children. At first it was rough living in California with all the expenses so we shared an apartment with others and it was pretty crowded. They knew this isn't what they wanted for us so they saved money and over time they saved enough and we decided to move to Nebraska for a more affordable lifestyle.

Moving to another state I say is what started my family's relay. We were now beginning to pursue our American Dream. We bought our own house which felt wonderful. My parent's found jobs and life was going good so far here. We called up some of our family that lived in this country and told them about Nebraska and soon they came along as well in search of their dream. Over the years my brothers were born and I grew closer to my family. I loved spending time with my aunts, uncles, and cousins. Life was going good until immigration came and deported my uncle. My family was now living in fear of who could be next. Seeing my uncle get deported made me realize how easily you can lose something you love.

Julian worded, "our families don't always cross the finish line in the span of one generation." To me this means that our family may not have accomplished everything they would've liked to accomplish but up to the following generation to build upon what they had. Hispanic Heritage Month is beautiful. It's a month that celebrates our histories, cultures, and contributions of us Hispanics. I am proud to be Hispanic! I believe Hispanics are some of the biggest hard workers you'll meet. If we want something we will give it our all all to achieve it and get to our goal. We embrace our culture and stick close to family and friends. Being Hispanic has made me the person I am today.

My parents always told me to pursue a future better then theirs once I grow up. My Dad is a construction worker and my Mom works in a fast food restaurant. They tell me it's tiring and they want to see not just have a job but have a career. I plan on making my parents proud and start a new relay for my siblings by being the first to go to college in my family. I've always

wanted to impact others and make a difference so I set a goal to myself by pursuing a career in teaching. I love working with others and helping out so I think this career is meant for me.

I will accomplish my goal by believing in myself. I will try hard in school and get scholarship opportunities. I can achieve my goal and make my family proud. Julian's last line has the most meaning to me. "Each generation passes on the fruits of their labor to the next." My parent's raised me well and taught me many good virtues. I plan on building upon these and then passing them on to the next generation.

Our families started a relay and it's my turn to continue this relay and pass it on to the next generation. I will do so by never forgetting where I started from, getting better, and passing of my fruits to the next generation. This relay has just begun and I can see the trophy up ahead.