

Public Service the *New America*



Armando Lara

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I was born in the state of Zacatecas, Mexico. I lived in this town until the age of thirteen. Due to the country's unstable economy in 1992, my family and I immigrated to Watsonville, California. In Watsonville, my parents and my two older sisters worked in the fields and canneries in order to support my two younger sisters and me.

After school and during the summers, I also picked raspberries in order to help my family financially.

I studied very hard to learn English and to succeed academically.

I graduated from high school and attended Cabrillo community College. I transferred to San Jose State University to major in Child Development. In 2002, *I received my BA and became the first member of my family to graduate from a university.*

I started teaching at a Title I school as I worked on completing my teaching credential. *I then obtained my MA degree to better help my students.* I am still working at the same Title I school.

For the last five summers, I have worked for the California Mini Corps Program as a team leader for K-12 tutors who are former migrant students and are working on their teaching degrees.

My next goal is to become a school administrator in order to represent those minorities who do not have a voice in their children's education.

