

Lucy Cantu - English Transcript

Good morning. Buenos dias.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

We are processing quite a bit right now with technology, so I'm going to ask all of us to just put our hands on our hearts for a moment and just take a deep breath so that we can become present.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

If we see here, I'm going to talk about leadership of the heart.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

This is very proper, right? And we see on the screen.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

One is an orange-- red heart. Hearts are a universal symbol of love.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

And I believe that that is why we are here today.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

We as parents.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

We are here because we love our children. And we want to do what we can for them.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

For them to have that better future.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

I think you would agree, wouldn't you?

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

So we're going to talk about leadership.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

But before I get into that.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

I want to acknowledge.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

The parents that are really the reason that I am here today.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

Here's a picture of an English class. My English class. I used to teach these parents.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

This was many, many years ago.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

More than 25 years ago. And the class came about.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

When a parent came to me.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

We were friends.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

We are still friends. And she knew that I was serving on a parent advisory council.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

It was a middle school.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

Anyhow, she came to me knowing that. And she said, Lucy, I know the school wants parents to get more involved.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

And she says, I believe that if we hold an English class for parents during the day.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

Parents shall come. And so it was really her idea to hold this class during the day. And I simply presented that idea to the council.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

So the principal loved the idea.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

And he ran with it.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

And so he made this class happen, in essence. But one of the things the principal did was he had to look for the funds. Right?

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

And he called me when he found them. So he said, Lucy, I have good news.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

What's the great news?

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

I found the money, he said, for the class. I said, oh, that's wonderful. And then he says, but I also have bad news.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

Oh my goodness, what might that be?

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

He says we don't have a teacher.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

In that moment, I felt this is not going to be the reason why we will not hold the class.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

And so I just said, if you find a curriculum, I will teach the class.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

Now, I'm not a classroom teacher.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

But I was willing.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

He accepted the idea and the class became reality.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

And parents came.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

Quite a few came. So the parent, her name is [INAUDIBLE], who you'll--

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

She saw something in her community. She saw a need.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

And the interest.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

And so it was because of her that this class came to be.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

Now, the class itself, the parents that came.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

They really were my inspiration.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

Many of the parents I began to observe had this desire to learn English because they really wanted to help their children do better in school but also do better in life.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

But I also saw that they wanted to learn as much as they could beyond English.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

They could learn English to really help their children. And so they are the reason I do the work I do today.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

And my biggest desire is simply to bring a message of love from my heart, a message of hope, and a message of empowerment to really help others grow into their greater potential that we are all capable of achieving.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

So I will share with you this question.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

And I want us to really think about this.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

What is your greatest desire for your children?

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

And I want us to really, really have the idea.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

I imagine like the parents in my classroom.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

That you have similar desires probably.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

You may want them to achieve all they can with their lives academically, to become professionals, to have good paying jobs.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

For them to be happy.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

And maybe also be happy doing the work that they do.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

So hopefully this is why you're here. You want to also help your children.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

So keep that in mind.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

Because this is the reason why you're here, and this will drive us.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

All in.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

We're saying that we're going to give it 100%. We're going to jump right in.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

To do everything that we can that's in our power. So to you I say congratulations.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

Because you took the most important step today, and that is to show up.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

I do want to just congratulate you.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

No matter where you are.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

I saw several groups in the chat from Amarillo, from Aledo, Eastbridge, South Side. I made a note and I welcome you. We all welcome you.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

It doesn't matter if you're in a group or if you're at home. You're here, and that's what matters. So that itself demonstrates so much love for your children and your family.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

So I want you to pat yourselves on the back. Let me see everybody pat yourselves on the back. Or really get excited because you're here.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

I congratulate you and I thank you for being here and demonstrating this act of love.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

Did I lose you?

No Lucy, we are still here. That was wonderful.

OK. Patience with technology.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

OK. So we are here to learn and grow.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

Because we are using technology, the most important thing we can do as you listen to me.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

Is that.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

Open your heart.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

Reflect, contemplate, ask yourself how might I apply these ideas to my raising my children and to myself?

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

One of the most important things I have learned in life.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

Is that there is this great need for us to truly get to know ourselves.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

Just as it's stated here on the screen. Knowing yourself is the beginning of all wisdom.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

And the more we know ourselves, the more we know why we want to do what we do.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

Our job as parents is to help your children know themselves better.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

That's an important step in life.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

Sometimes we get lost. And as long as we know who we are, what's inside of us.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

That will move us forward.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

OK. So let's get started. I'm going to share a story.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

It is Ignacio's story. So here we have a young man who was being raised by a single mother.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

He had a brother.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

And so she had been a migrant worker working in the cotton field.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

She only had a fourth grade education. But she did the best she could. And one day she decided she didn't want to work in the fields anymore. And so she moved her family to the Dallas Fort Worth area.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

And she began working at a factory.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

The one thing she did.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

Is that she always encouraged her son.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

She knew that education was going to be the key.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

To never really give up school. And so they went to school and she worked. Now, I understand from Ignacio that he helped his mother financially.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

By working himself. He worked in the school cafeteria cleaning the plates, this was before free lunch, to earn his lunch.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

So he did that. But then when he was about 12 or 13.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

He went to work as a tailor's apprentice.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

To also help financially.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

One day.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

The family had visitors. They came to visit them in their home. And they had a son. This couple came with their son. And the son was wearing this t-shirt.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

On the t-shirt were the letters SMU.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

Which is the initials for Southern Methodist University.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

And the young man who was wearing the t-shirt, this friend of the family, just spoke so beautifully about his experiences at the university that it sparked an interest in Ignacio.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

And in those moments, Ignacio captured this dream.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

And so his dream was to go to college one day.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

In his family, no one, no one, hardly anyone had finished high school, let alone college.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

So this dream was a little different for him.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

And it still was very strong in him.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

So come around the last year of high school.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

He went to seek help and how to enroll in a college or university.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

So normally we go to the counselors, and that's where he went.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

Unfortunately, the counselor advised Ignacio that maybe he shouldn't go to the university, that he should consider just staying in his trade of tailoring.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

Nacho is his nickname. The counselor.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

But that dream burned so brightly in Ignacio.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

That he decided, well, if I can't find help here at the school, I will go out on my own and look for help. I will try and figure it out on my own.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

OK.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

Ignacio persisted. And you see him here in this photo working as a tailor. He actually put himself through college tailoring. He began at a local community college and he went on to enroll at North Texas State University. It was known as North Texas State University.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

He has mentioned to me that he struggled with his English.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

Again, he persisted in spite of that and he sought help.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

He paid all his studies working as a tailor.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

He never took a loan out. It took him a long time to get his degree, but he earned his bachelor's degree in marketing.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

Now, I know Ignacio's story very well because that is where we met.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

Well, it's now known as University of North Texas. We met at NTSU and we married seven years later.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

So I know his story pretty well.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

But it's always been very inspiring to me.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

And so if he could do it, I'm a firm believer that anyone can do this, because we have in us the capacity to Persist

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

Our children can.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

So we never give up on that dream.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

OK. So.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

Let us continue. So we look at this [INAUDIBLE] for whatever reason.

Miss Lucy, just as a timer, you have about five, maybe 10 more minutes. If you wanted to do your presentation just in English, we can send the Spanish speakers back to the translation room.

Oh.

And that way we can go through a little bit faster.

OK. I don't mind doing that.

Yes.

I thought I had an hour.

OK. We'll go up till 10 o'clock. But maybe for our Spanish speakers.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

If our Spanish speakers could go back to the Spanish channel, she will continue just in English so we can hear her complete story.

OK. So I'm going to present as much as I can. All of us have this capacity. It's in us. It's born in our hearts. It is our responsibility as parents to teach our children [INAUDIBLE]. We lead them. We are leaders as well. And of course, as teachers and leaders, we inspire our children.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

OK. John Quincy Adams, the sixth president of the US, said if your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, and become more, you are a leader. And that's what we are. Just embrace that.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

We are leaders. And we can affirm that [SPEAKING SPANISH] I am a leader. Tracy, I don't know why it's not going. OK. Leadership of the heart is all about that capacity that we have. These are the four key qualities that we all possess. One is vision. It's what we see. But it's what we see, that we imagine, and we dream of, just like Ignacio. He had that dream. He was able to see somewhere inside of him that that was something he wanted to do.

And so vision is the seeing. It's what we see. There is the capacity in us to know what we are here to do, and that is our mission. And that comes in the form of gifts, talents, qualities that we all possess. And then we can also plan. We can set goals. So planning is another capacity that we all possess. It's setting the goals. The planning is like setting the roadmap, finding the roadmap to what is success for us.

And of course, then once we know what we want to achieve, we have to act on that plan. We have to take the steps forward. And this is where many people get stuck, because fear oftentimes holds us back that we might not be good enough, that we might not be smart enough. We might not be capable enough. But I'm here to tell you that we are.

OK. Vision. Success begins at home. There's a story of a little child who raised his hand when the teacher was having this discussion with them about what they wanted to do when they were older. And this one child got up and said, teacher, I want to be a boratto, which means a drunk. And so this is a true story.

And so what I would tell us, right, what does this tell us is that maybe something was going on in the environment. Again, we are their teachers. We are their leaders. That he was seeing day in and day out. And I shared this story at a parent conference years ago and a teacher assistant actually came up to me and she said that this was something that she could relate to, because that's all she ever saw growing up, that she thought she was going to become an alcoholic as well. And so as parent leaders, we have to be so conscious of is the environment that we are creating at home conducive to their learning, to them pursuing their dreams. If I were to walk into your home, would I see evidence of the value that we place on education? Are there library books in the home? Those are the good things that leaders of the heart are conscious of making sure that they're doing. It's like we are establishing the foundation.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

For their future and education is key. But we also have to show that it is a priority. Sorry. It's just such a natural thing. OK. So very important for us to help our children grow a vision. How do we do that? By asking them, what do you dream of? What do you want-- they want to become? What would you love to be?

And let it be their dreams. Sometimes we feel like the best way is our way, but we have to also be accepting that we're all different. Just as I know you know that your children all have different

personalities, we're different. We're here to do different things. And so we have to be OK with that as well, parents. But make sure that it is the right environment that we are creating for our children.

[INAUDIBLE] dreams. That is one of the most important things we can do for our children. Don't criticize them. Don't ridicule their dreams. Allow them. And if one day they want to be a ballerina and the next day they want to be a doctor, that's OK, because it's saying something about what's inside of them already, which will lead us to mission.

This is the second capacity of a leader that we all have is this knowing ourselves and what is inside of us. We all come, we're born with unique gifts, talents, interests. And when we act on those, when we pursue those, they will bring us a deep sense of fulfillment. I didn't know what I wanted to do with the rest of my life. When I was in college, I ended up almost dropping out in my fourth year. I was that close to getting my degree. But because I wasn't clear and I wasn't happy with what I was studying, I almost dropped out. But it was thanks to the professors that I had who were so caring that I was able to persist. And I ended up getting my four year degree in five years, but I obtained my degree. And as Ignacio has often told my girls and myself, it's not so much the degree that we obtain but it's what we do with the degree. It truly opens doors.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

OK. So some examples of some gifts are there's so many things we can do. I've just listed a few here. Some of us like to build things. Well, we might want to build a building. We might want to build cars. Investigating, healing, creating, designing, selling, teaching. They're endless. The gifts are endless. And mission comes from how we use them in our own unique way, how we apply them. I said earlier, I'm not a classroom teacher. It's not something I studied. But I found this gift of speaking and empowering. It's really more empowering. That's what I feel I do. I'm teaching people how to grow themselves. So there's something in all of us. And sometimes there are several things. So we honor that. And as parents, recognize that your children. Help them to discover what's in them.

The third strategy or the third quality of a leader is their ability to plan. And planning is just that idea of writing down the goals. If I know what I want, I know what my dream is, I want to go to college. Well, there are things that we have to do to prepare to go to college. And we have to go to school. For our children, the short term goals might be, well, this year I want to get perfect attendance. I want to have be on the A or B honor roll. I want to participate in an art contest. I want to learn to ride a skateboard. I want to read more.

How many of us wish our children would want to read more? Encourage them, parents. That is one thing I used to do is I would take my children to the library, the public library, every week. And we would come home with as many books as we could bring. This is one way they can discover who they are is through what they're reading. So you want to make sure that they're reading topics that interest them, not us. I would walk out with my own bag of books. But that interests them. And this keeps them engaged in wanting to read more. So that's so important. Make that a part of the plan. And this can also be a family plan like I did. I would take my girls to the library regularly.

OK. Long term the dream is to go to college, because I want to earn a good living. So we have to do every year the steps that are moving us closer. We got to take the courses that prepare us to go to school. So you want to become a doctor. Well, it's going to be a little more education. It's making sure we're preparing ourselves. Maybe long term I want to be a writer. I want to travel to Disneyland or some

other fantastic place. These are beautiful dreams. But we've got to figure out how are we going to get there. Again, the plan is like the roadmap. It's a map that's telling us what road to take to get to where we want to go, what is success for us, what is joyful for us. OK.

Then the fourth capacity that we all have is [INAUDIBLE]. This is where people fall short. Because often what holds us back is fear. But do you know that the opposite of fear is love? And we're talking about leadership of the heart. So if we're following this, then we're going to find inside of us what we need to move forward, as Ignacio did, with being persistent. Fear keeps us from achieving. But fear can also make us, direct our children in a direction that we think is better for them when they want to go in a different direction. Allow them to explore that.

Again, we have to remember what are our reasons for directing them that way or the decisions that I'm making as a parent. And we have to develop the character of success. So persistence is one of the things. It takes a lot of courage. It takes a lot of courage. And I love the word courage, because it comes from the French word that means heart. We take heart, but we do what we have to do. That is courage. And I imagine that the majority of you have faced some obstacle or some challenge. I know the pandemic was one of them. What do we do? The uncertainty, the doubt. We weren't ready for that. But we moved through that and we look for help when we can. We look for help as well. But we've got to find the courage to take those steps.

From taking the steps with courage comes to confidence. And the word confidence I think of as confi, in Spanish I think of con fe, which means with faith. Faith in whatever you believe a greater power is, that's who has given us these dreams, but also faith in ourselves. This is what confidence means is that we have belief in ourselves.

And then of course, commitment. And again, All In, the name of this conference, means commitment, means we're going to do what we said we were going to do. I'm guaranteeing it. So there's a difference between a promise and a guarantee. A promise may be broken, but a guarantee means it's done. and. That is what all in means. And this is the key. This is the magic key is we've got to take action on those dreams and help our children figure out those steps and encourage them, not discourage them, to move forward with their dreams.

OK. All right. Hope lies in dreams, in imagination, and in the courage of those who dare to make dreams into reality. This was said by Dr. Jonas Salk, who actually developed the polio vaccine.

All right. Leaders of the heart. Yay. That's what we are. We're leading our children with our heart. OK. Our daughters. We have two daughters, Ignacio and I. Sol, the oldest one, graduated from the University of Texas in Austin in 2009. And nine years later, Luz graduated from Ignacio's and my alma mater, the University of North Texas. We are very proud of both of our daughters that they have achieved that dream that we had for them as parents. And so we have to help them see that. Set those expectations high for them.

Showing up today is an indicator that you are a leader. You took the step, you took action. That is leadership right there. So do not doubt. Do not doubt. You may also be thinking, you know, I didn't have a role model. I didn't have parents who supported me. I had no idea. But it's possible. It is possible to not give up on dreams for your children. Help them as leaders of the heart, but also think of your dreams. Because one day your children may be asked to go off to school in a different place. And we have to have the courage to let them go. They're not going to be gone forever. They have to also make their own life. I can tell you from experience because Sol ended up going to Sweden to study for a semester. And I just,

oh, my heart was so torn. But the courage knowing that they were pursuing their own dreams is what I think got me through as a mom.

So never too late to learn, to grow, to develop. I congratulate you. You made it to the conference. You have still much more to go and to learn as the day goes on, but I want us to recognize [INAUDIBLE]. I am a leader of the heart. If you are in a group, say it loudly. Whoever your leaders are in the group, please have them say that throughout the day. I am a parent leader. I am a leader of the heart.

So I'm going to close with this. I'm going to close with just that reminder that you are those leaders and to recognize that empowerment is about choice. And today you have demonstrated this act of love, of showing up, of taking the step to be here that you made a choice. Well, success is a choice just like that. We choose success. So continue to choose success for your families, for you.

And with this saying, OK, this quote here is our greatest power is the power to choose. We can decide where we are, what we do, and what we think. No one can take the power to choose away from us. It is ours alone. We can do what we want to do. We can be who we want to be.

So I close with that. Congratulations, leaders of the heart. I wish you all much success, love, and joy, you and your families. So thank you all.