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The most important Hispanic woman in my life is my mom, Amalia Garibay. Looking back, I realize I didn't always understand the valuable lessons my mother was teaching me throughout my life. As I look towards my future career in Business Administration, I carry her lessons with me and impart them to my daughter as well.

My parents, both immigrants from México, opened a convenience store in our neighborhood. Growing up, I spent afternoons at the store right by my mom's side. I hated spending all my free time there because I wished we could go home and that my mom would be a stay-at-home mom. I was naïve to understand that this business was a dream of hers, one that she and my dad worked extremely hard for. I watched a woman I loved so much work hard for her dreams and accomplish them on her time. In time, she brought me along her journey as well, as she started teaching me how to manage the store and check-out customers at the register. She taught me the business basics like how to keep costs low to increase our profit margin, how to place merchandise close to our check-out register to increase sales, and how to manage the books to keep track of inventory. I didn't know it then, but I know now that these moments were important and that they would go on and inspire me to follow my own ambitions just like she did.

Her lessons resonate with me to this day. The most valuable lesson was that being a mother is not an obstacle in following your dreams. Following in my parent's footsteps, my family and I have started our own businesses. My husband and I started our own landscaping company in 2019. I manage the "business" side of the company, while he manages the operations at our contracted sites. My daughter and I started Lunamade, a summer snack and

lemonade stand in our neighborhood. I love working alongside my family, creating something of our own and seeing the growth of our businesses through our hard work.

I decided to return to school and pursue a career in Business Administration. That decision is rooted in my parent's examples and my hopes for the future of my family. My mom's wildest dream became my passion and future ambitions. I want to learn how to apply business principles like accounting, development, data analysis, marketing and project management to expand my family's businesses. I want to be an inspiration to my daughters just like my mom was to me. I want them to see how hard their mom works and know that they can work hard to achieve their dreams. I want them to go farther than my mom and I have come thus far. I want them to know that being an immigrant and a Hispanic woman are not barriers to achievement, but instead motivating and inspiring attributes.