TIP SHEET

Title: *From Farmworker to Astronaut / De campesino a astronauta*

Subtitle: *My Path to the Stars / Mi viaje a las estrellas*

Author: José M. Hernández **Spanish translation by:** Darío Zárate Figueroa

Publication date: October 31, 2019 **Pages:** 360 **Price:** $12.95 **ISBN-13:** 978-1-55885-868-8

Trim: 5.5" x 8.5" **Format:** Trade paperback **Ages:** 8-12 **Imprint:** Piñata Books **SALES**: 3,636 copies

RIGHTS INFORMATION: Amazon produced *A Million Miles Away*, a biopic starring Michael Peña, which has been available for streaming since September 2023.

Ten-year-old José M. Hernández watched the Apollo 17 moonwalks on his family's black and white television in 1972 and knew what he wanted to be when he grew up: an astronaut. Later that night he told his father and was surprised when his dad said, "You can do this, m'ijo!"

Mr. Hernández told his son that if he really wanted to become an astronaut, he would need to follow a simple, five-ingredient recipe to succeed: 1) decide what you want, 2) recognize how far you are from your goal, 3) draw a road map to get there, 4) prepare yourself with a good education and 5) develop a good work ethic, always giving more than required.

In the years to come, José would follow this recipe as he obtained undergraduate and master's degrees in electrical engineering. Adding his own ingredient, perseverance, he applied to NASA's astronaut program eleven times—and was rejected each time! Finally, in 2004, he was selected to be part of the 19th class of US Astronauts. He achieved his dream in 2009 when he served as the flight engineer on the Space Shuttle Discovery on the STS-128 fourteen-day mission to the International Space Station.

In *From Farmworker to Astronaut*, José M. Hernández recollects his parallel journeys, juxtaposing memories of his mission to the space station and childhood aspirations to reach the stars. His story is sure to motivate kids to set goals and reach for their own dreams.

GENRE: Bilingual children's book, children's non-fiction, children's autobiography, children's Spanish titles, children's multicultural books

SELLING HANDLES:

- This non-fiction book for intermediate readers tells the story of a Hispanic astronaut.
- Presented in a bilingual "flip" book format
- Touches on NASA, which celebrates the 50th anniversary of the first moon landing in 2019

AUTHOR CREDENTIALS: JOSÉ M. HERNÁNDEZ is the author of *The Boy Who Touched the Stars / El niño que alcanzó las estrellas* (Piñata Books, 2019), *Reaching for the Stars* (Hachette, 2012) and *El cosechador de estrellas* (Editorial Patria, 2012). The founder of Reaching for the Stars Foundation dedicated to increasing the number of students studying STEM fields, he lives in Stockton, California, where he is president and CEO of an engineering firm.

PRAISE FOR *FROM FARMWORKER TO ASTRONAUT / DE CAMPESINO A ASTRONAUTA*:

"Hernández's amazing journey from toiling in a field of cucumbers to floating among a field of stars is a powerful tale of perseverance. This account of triumph over adversity may successfully ignite the same drive in other kids."

—Kirkus Reviews

"An inspiring, hopeful memoir in which humble beginnings lead to an unforgettable, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

—Foreword Reviews

PRAISE FOR THE WORK OF JOSÉ M. HERNÁNDEZ:

"This outstanding bilingual autobiography encapsulates the life-changing power of having a goal and the will to achieve it."

—Kirkus Reviews (starred review) on *The Boy Who Touched the Stars/El niño que alcanzó las estrellas*