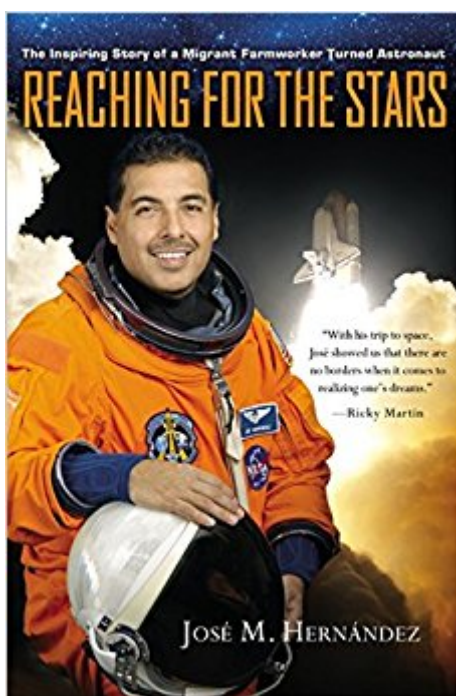


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# Reaching For The Stars: The Inspiring Story Of A Migrant Farmworker Turned Astronaut



## Synopsis

Born into a family of migrant workers, toiling in the fields by the age of six, Jose M. Hernandez dreamed of traveling through the night skies on a rocket ship. REACHING FOR THE STARS is the inspiring story of how he realized that dream, becoming the first Mexican-American astronaut. Hernandez didn't speak English till he was 12, and his peers often joined gangs, or skipped school. And yet, by his twenties he was part of an elite team helping develop technology for the early detection of breast cancer. He was turned down by NASA eleven times on his long journey to donning that famous orange space suit. Hernandez's message of hard work, education, perseverance, of "reaching for the stars," makes this a classic American autobiography.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

© M. Hernandez is an engineer and a former NASA astronaut who was part of the crew of the STS-128 Space Shuttle mission. Hernandez also founded the Reaching for the Stars Foundation, a non-profit organization that "strives to ensure opportunities for children to pursue their educational and professional goals regardless of perceived obstacles."

This should not be considered a true review. Jose is my friend. I've known him for half his life. Now having disclosed this. His story is inspiring. He shows by example that dedication and perseverance are 99% of success. He was rejected 11 times by NASA for astronaut admission. Each time he evaluated the situation and added something to his credentials. This is not just an immigrants story of success. It's the story of every youth who labored in unskilled jobs and reached

for the top. Thanks for telling your story Jose.

I'm a student in college who along the way lost motivation to continue the long education journey. My goal seemed so far and unrealistic. However, after reading this book the passion flame has ignited again. I will not stop until I achieve my ultimate academic goal! This book puts most of us to shame. In the sense that he had more obstacles to overcome than most of us nowadays. A true example of perseverance!

I found this book to be a true inspiration! A little boy's dreaming and tenacity, with the support of his family and some special teachers along the way is a testament to the fact that the "American Dream" is still attainable.

One exceptional book with a true and real story of personal growth against your life circumstances + it is an incredible gift for a teenager to inspire their lives ( I bought this one to give to a boy who graduate in June )...p.s. this is the third book that I give ;)

Mr. Hernandez is the very essence of where perseverance can take a person in life. His story is captivating, inspiring, and from the heart. I could not put it down.

Jose Hernandez had a spellbinding story to tell and I couldn't put it down. Congratulations to Jose for his story, his life, and this wonderful book. Garland O'Quinn

heartwarming and equally inspiring story about how education makes a difference.

"Reaching for the Stars" is a book about a kid who's interested in space and actually becomes an astronaut, a must read for all who want to learn about NASA. It would be enjoyable if NASA astronaut John Daniel Olivas had a book on his story and the two space shuttle missions, STS-117 and STS-128.

After seeing a 60 Minute tv story, I read this to 8th graders when I had a job at a school with a heavy Hispanic population. This is a truly inspiring story, and a great encouragement for my students. He came from an extremely poor family who picked crops for a living, and succeeded because of desire and hard work.

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