

As a leadership speaker, José M. Hernández is renowned as a former NASA astronaut who overcame extraordinary odds to achieve his dream of spaceflight. Best known for his journey from migrant farmworker to space explorer, he flew aboard STS-128 on the Space Shuttle Discovery, contributing to missions supporting the International Space Station

TOPICS:

- Perseverance & Resilience
- From Farmworker to Astronaut
- Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
- Leadership & Teamwork
- Goal Setting & Achieving Dreams
- Turning Failure into Success
- Inspiration from Space Exploration

LANGUAGES:

He presents in English and Spanish.

IN DETAIL:

Hernández grew up in a migrant farming family, travelling seasonally between California and Mexico. He pursued electrical engineering at the University of the Pacific and later earned a master's degree from the University of California, Santa Barbara. He went on to work at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, where he contributed to advanced imaging technologies, including innovations that improved early breast cancer detection. His path to NASA was defined by persistence, he was rejected 11 times before finally being selected in 2004. In 2009, he achieved his lifelong dream by traveling to space as a mission specialist. His life story also reached wide audiences through the film A Million Miles Away, further cementing his influence as a cultural and educational figure.

WHAT HE OFFERS YOU:

José Hernández is a highly sought-after motivational speaker and, STEM advocate. Drawing from personal experience, he provides practical insights on how to stay focused, embrace challenges, and pursue ambitious goals despite setbacks.

HOW HE PRESENTS:

His speeches inspire perseverance, resilience, and educational advancement, delivering impactful, story-driven keynotes that resonate with diverse audiences, from students to corporate leaders.

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