Perchance to Dream

In the Spring of 2012, I was afforded the opportunity to embark on the USC Volunteer Center's Alternative Spring Break trip to Retalhuleu, Guatemala. This trip focused on youth educational reform and the importance of a foundational education. As newly transferred student to USC and Dornsife at the time, I was ready to embrace all new things. Little did I know that this trip would change my perspective on campus, and into my future.

While on the trip, we were lead by the principal of San Rafael Elementary School, Carlos. A man of relatively little wealth, Carlos dedicated his strength in bettering the lives of the youth. He was encouraging, passionate, and driven; but most importantly, he was moving. His morning speeches promoted that anyone is capable of inspiring a student, no matter your place or educational background. Carlos believed all encompass the inner strength to better those of others.

I take Carlos' words and practice it here at USC, especially with my buddy from Best Buddies, Henry. Henry is a 19-year-old student at Lanterman High School, a school specializing in students with mental disabilities. Although Henry and his peers are diagnosed with a condition, their ability to succeed for their utmost dreams inspires me to become a better student by being a motivator of inspiration within the students. Wherever I am, I recall Carlos' words of building a strong educational foundation, alongside my strong Dornsife background, to believe in the future of the world.