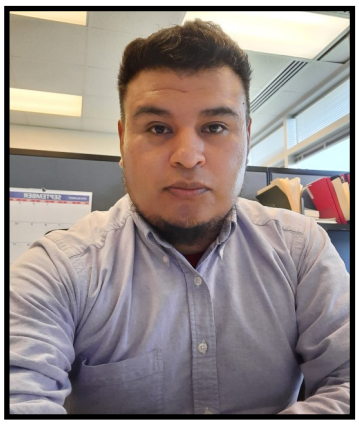
Tennessee Department of Transportation

The Civil Rights Division is recognizing Hispanic Heritage Month



Employee Spotlight
Macario Reyes

Region 1 Project Development, Transportation Project Specialist - Senior

He enjoys being outdoors, spending time with family and friends, watching his two boys grow and play soccer.

His hobby is collecting items with his sons that remind him of his childhood, like Lego sets, retro gaming systems, and soccer jerseys. Lastly, he enjoys leisure walks and hikes with his wife.

Joined TDOT January 2016

Tell us about a moment in Hispanic History that influenced or shaped your career/life?
For me there is not a specific event or moment, but indirectly it would be the work César Chávez accomplished with civil rights for agricultural workers. This work directly impacted my parents that worked in agricultural fields for many years. Seeing them construct what they have today from very little is the biggest impact and motivation that I have today. I believe stories like these are what Hispanic Heritage Month is all about, celebrating our differences and embracing our similarities.

Who within or outside TDOT has been influential in your career? Are they a mentor today?
It's difficult to pinpoint one certain individual. There is definitely a lot of good people within TDOT that have in one way or another influenced me throughout my career. Overall, I would add that the individuals from my time in the Morristown Construction Office has played a major role and allowed me to demonstrate my capabilities and that experience really sticks.

Which of the TDOT Values (Stewardship, Integrity, Safety, Consistency, Development, Innovation, Collaboration & Family) that are listed within the Strategic Plan, resonates with you and with diversity? State why?
It would be family. From a personal standpoint, I wouldn't be where I am or the person I am without my family. This key component has taught me more than just right from wrong, learning to share with others or always having someone you can depend on. This aspect is key because it ingrains and forms the foundation on a person's identity and sets the stage to practice the remaining values.

Why is it important to recognize Hispanic Heritage Month, especially in 2021?
For me, every cultural celebration should be equally important. This mentally and openness should be observed and practiced so we can better understand one another. I believe when we take the time to genuinely learn from one another, we orientate ourselves in the right direction to better understand what is going on around us and act according. Lastly, I would like to invite everyone to take a moment and explore the contributions that Hispanics and all cultures have achieved to date and embrace the ones that are performed every day in this country.