

# A PATHWAY TO HIGHER EDUCATION

## Lester's Story

***"Every day, I feel like I'm one step closer to achieving my goal of becoming a certified personal trainer and that's thanks to the tourism industry!"***

**Lester Lee**

**Busser, Barista**

**Westin Hotel San Diego**

Share this story with your friends.



Lester Lee was a senior in high school when his father Daniel and mother moved from their native country of Cuba to the United States in search of better opportunities. The move was hard at first. Lester didn't know anyone and didn't have a good grasp of the local language.

"I didn't know anyone when I first got here and I could barely speak English," Lester said. "But little by little, I was able to meet people and learn English through school."

He heard about an opening at the Westin San Diego, where his dad works, and applied. He got the interview all on his own and it wasn't until after he was hired that he revealed he was Daniel's son. While it has been less than a year

since Lester started, he's already been given increased responsibilities and opportunities for advancement.

As a college student, Lester's part-time job at the Westin San Diego also gives him the funds to pay for his college education and work toward achieving his career goals.

"Every day, I feel like I'm one step closer to achieving my goal of becoming a certified personal trainer and that's thanks to the tourism industry."

tourism  
**matters**  
*San Diego*  
TourismMattersSD.org