

LaPorte Project Manager Rises to the Challenge: 45 Tacos!

National Taco Day is Oct. 4, and perhaps no other INDOT employee loves tacos more than LaPorte District Capital Program Management Project Manager David Solorzano.

A Mexican native, he set a taco-eating record at a local restaurant by once crunching his way through nearly four dozen tacos in one sitting.

Solorzano, who graduated from Brigham Young University before moving to northern Indiana, began working for INDOT two years ago.



Here is his story:

My name is David Solorzano, and I am a taco eater. I was born and raised in Mexico, and even though I became an American citizen this year, I will always carry the culture and traditions that I learned growing up. I am proud and happy to share my roots and experiences with everyone.

David Solorzano today (right photo) and after the 2013 taco-eating contest (bottom photo).



One of the most peculiar stories I had when I was younger is that I set a taco-eating record in a taco restaurant in 2013, when I was 19 years old. Growing up, I always considered myself someone who likes funny challenges that would create experiences and good memories. I learned of this place called “Taqueria las Brazitas,” which is well known for selling each al pastor taco for 10 cents each (since then, they had the nerve to increase the price to 15 cents per taco).

The restaurant, located in Morelia, Michoacan, had a challenge in which if you ate more than 35 tacos, you did not have to pay for your tacos and got a photo taken of you to place on one of their walls. For this challenge, I had to train day and night (not really, more like going to the taqueria once or twice a week) for three months, which enabled me to devise a strategy to win the challenge. After many tacos, Coca-Colas, and Pepto-Bismol doses, I accepted the challenge to eat more than 35 tacos.

After fasting for an entire day, I sat at the restaurant, ready to face the challenge that would change my life. After 1½ hours, three bottles of soda, many napkins, and some anti-heartburn liquid, I was able to complete my challenge by eating **45** tacos (each taco had one tortilla, al pastor meat, onion, cilantro, pineapple, and a little bit of salsa).

Even though I would like to say this challenge changed my life and taught me so many things, it only gave me gastritis. Maybe I’m being a little dramatic, but I also get to tell this fun story even now, 10 years after that challenge. If I ever return to the restaurant, I’d eat about 10 tacos, but never again 45.

I also learned that, just two weeks after I achieved this amazing feat, my record got beaten by someone who ate 57 tacos (I was as impressed as you guys probably are). I might never eat as many tacos as I did that day, not even half as many, but I will always be happy to eat and enjoy them, as they are possibly my favorite and most beloved food.

