

Dalia Calvillo

WLC 300

It was difficult for me to decide what university to go to, I chose CSUMB and I am glad I did. When I applied I chose Psychology as my major because a course I took in high school made me feel that I wanted to be a psychologist. But a year later I decided to change it to Spanish. I found interest in the language and culture that I was born into. I decided to go get a bachelor's in Spanish and become a professor. I want to teach this language and culture, and have the opportunity to motivate students to go beyond in education.

I was born in Aguascalientes Mexico in 1996. When I was 13 years old my family and I moved to the United States. I started to learn English in eighth grade, it was difficult to learn a new language and adapt to a different culture. However in ninth grade I took a Spanish class in high school. When I was there I felt closer to Mexico. In that class I was able to speak my language and talk about my culture. This experience made me value even more where I came from and my culture. In the Spanish classes I took my passion for this language emerged. I learned to value my language and my culture. Being bilingual and bicultural is a great capacity that not everyone is able to experience. Being open to different cultures and having the knowledge of two languages gives me an opportunity to have more connections around the world and job opportunities. I chose Spanish as my major because I want to teach others about the importance of being bilingual and having open minds and different perspectives to respect other cultures.

The journey I have been through in CSUMB is being definitely helpful to reach my academic goals. The classes I have taken so far have helped me develop a better understanding

of the Spanish language and culture. The literature and linguistics classes have developed my knowledge about what it really means to be bilingual and bicultural. I have received comments saying that acquiring a Spanish major is too easy and that it's too simple for my capacities. These people say that based on simple things but they don't take into account that it is an academic education not colloquial language. Putting critics by aside, I want to keep developing my knowledge because I know I will have a bigger experience when I finish my bachelor's degree here at CSUMB. I still have classes to take and my capstone project to do. Furthermore I will go on to graduate school to reach my goal and become a Spanish professor.

My career goal is to become a professor or a high school teacher. I am still trying to figure out during my years here at CSUMB. I am interested in becoming a professor because there is where you can open students' eyes and that is exactly what I want to do. I feel passionate in opening their eyes and minds to the Spanish language and culture so that they can have a better understanding of the world, its cultures and languages. But on the other hand I would like to be a high school teacher because I feel like I can also be a change in students' paths onto college. High school is where many find their motivation and their interests and that's why I believe there is where I should be to help them choose the right paths. Having the capacity to use and comprehend two different cultures and languages is like having two wings to fly further.