

Linda Heredia Chavez  
WLC 300  
Personal Statement  
October 12, 2018

I remember I was still a teen when I was trying to perfect my English during my high school education. I was so focused on honing my skills in English that I realized I was losing grasp on my first language.

I was putting so much pressure on myself to learn English because as it wasn't my first language, I felt the necessity of blending in with the culture in the United States. With that being said, Spanish is my first language. I was born in Mexico and immigrated to United States at the age of one. Since, I knew that being fluent only in just one language was going to deteriorate my chances of having better opportunities in employment, I started looking into obtaining a bachelor's degree in Spanish and move on with accomplishing my goal. My family left everything behind to give my siblings and me a better future. I must now take advantage of this opportunity to be proficient in Spanish.

True, initially my goal was to be proficient in English. But I soon realized that in the process I was losing touch with Spanish. Communicating with my parents and grandmothers was getting uncomfortable/challenging because I was using more English vocabulary to express myself to them. The next step for me in realizing that all those years trying to perfect my English was affecting my first language, was to focus on the necessity and real value it had for me to be a fluent bilingual in both languages. Therefore, when I graduated high school, I determined that my major would be Spanish, this was my way to complete my goal of keeping both languages in practice.

Little after I decided on my major, I researched the institutions that would offer me the best experience in serving my community with my prime goal of improving my Spanish and decided to

attend California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB). I knew that this institution had a great connection with the community, being that they always wanted students to, in a way, serve as a connection with the community outside of campus and on campus. CSUMB offers the Spanish Language and Hispanic Cultures major which fulfilled my needs and aspirations in giving back to the community.

Ever since the beginning of my education here, I have encountered positive support and encouragement. I have learned service skills throughout one of my courses at CSUMB and it has engaged me even more towards my chosen profession. The area I would like to focus on in the future after CSUMB, is to work with programs that offer services to first generation students and families with low income backgrounds and who are immigrants. CSUMB has taught me that my passion is what I must pursue. I will follow that path. The road may not be easy. But I will not stop because I am a person with courage and strength of overcoming obstacles to complete my goals.

<b>AREA</b>	<b>GRADE</b>
Personal Biography (2)	2
Connection to studies/interest in the field (2)	2
Rationale for majoring in Spanish (2)	2
Goals for personal & professional development (2)	2
Completion of assignment (2)	1.8
<b>Grade</b>	<b>9.8</b>