

Paige Figueroa, B.A. Spanish, B.A. Economics, Class of 2021

*By: Bethany Waddey
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Research Assistant in Education Statistics, American Institutes for Research, Austin, TX

“I feel like my professors helped me so much in guiding me into my path.”

Paige Figueroa is a WKU Economics and Spanish alumni who graduated in 2021. She now lives in Austin, Texas and works as a Research Assistant in Education Statistics for the American Institutes for Research. In this role, she does research and technical review for the largest assessment in the United States, the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). She also completes translations for this assessment taken in Puerto Rico.

Paige says that she uses Spanish every single day, and she believes that learning the language is the best thing she has done. Not only did she gain language knowledge, but she is also able to understand many different cultures. She also says that WKU Spanish professors Dr. Sonia Lenk and Dr. Melissa Stewart have provided her with assistance and guidance that have made a big difference in her life. She hopes to one day be an Education Policy Analyst in Latin America, and she says she would not have realized this goal without the help of these incredible professors.

Her advice to anyone studying a language is to pair the study of a language with another field of study. She believes it helps to develop a career where you can use those skills every day. Furthermore, the concentrations offered by the Department of Modern Languages help students immensely in tailoring their degree in Spanish towards their career goals.

