

# Jennifer King, B.A.

## Photojournalism and Spanish, 2018

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*“Language can be a beautiful bridge that connects people.”*



When Jennifer King arrived on the Hill, she already had an immense interest in and passion for the Spanish language. At Greenwood High School, her teacher Mrs. Doris Poole instilled in her not only a love of Spanish language and culture, but additionally how important language is as a skill in students’ professional lives. Because she knew that Spanish would be a key in unlocking doors in her life, King decided to major in Spanish and photojournalism. Today, she works as a photographer and videographer for the Tri-Cities Herald in Tri-Cities, Washington, and uses Spanish to connect with Hispanic communities.

According to her, one of the most memorable highlights from her experience was her study abroad program in Granada, Spain. Two faculty members in the department, Dr. Inmaculada Pertusa and Mrs. Susann Davis, were instrumental in helping King reach her Spanish language learning goals and recommended to her to study abroad. While in Spain, King’s love for the language deepened even further and her skills improved exponentially. In her own words, “the friends I made and the things I learned and experienced [in Spain] will stick with me for the rest of my life.”

According to King, there are a number of reasons one should learn a language: although the path certainly takes some time, effective communication relies on language proficiency. Through such dialogue, students can not only show employers that they have gained a valuable skill, but additionally can expand their worldview and understanding of others. In her own words, “language can be a beautiful bridge that connects people.” King says the best way to incorporate language into your life involves making it fun and enjoying the kind of activities you do in your first language in your second (or third!) language as well. Listening to music, watching movies, and reading

books are all great ways to practice language. Although language learning is challenging, the hard work that the language requires will pay off through the greater understanding and the worldview that is acquired.

