

Florence Laramore, B.A. Spanish and Marketing, 2008; M.S. Teacher's Leadership, 2013

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When Florence Laramore came to WKU, she studied marketing and Spanish with a concentration in teacher certification. Laramore graduated with a B.A. and earned her teaching certificate in 2008. She then earned an M.S. in Teacher's Leadership in 2013, with the addition of 18 Spanish credit hours, which allowed her to be able to offer dual credit classes at South Warren High School in Bowling Green, Kentucky. Today Laramore is teaching Spanish at South Warren High School and shares her passion for the Spanish language and culture. Additionally, she is serving as the department head at the high school and sponsors student travel and the Spanish Honor Society. Although she grew up speaking Spanish, Laramore felt that it was her duty to continue enhancing her language proficiency for her future career.

Laramore recalls many highlights from her time on the Hill. She found her classes to be challenging yet rewarding, and what she learned in her classes allowed her to invest her time wisely. Moreover, she found that the professors were of great quality at WKU with a wide array of specializations in linguistic, literary, and cultural areas. She also recalls the positive effects of her study abroad experiences in Spain and Ecuador, because she had the opportunity to learn much more about history, literature, art, politics, traditions, and indigenous or minority languages in Spanish-speaking regions.

Because we currently live in a very competitive and globalized world, Laramore recommends that students consider majoring in a language. Not only will it set them apart, but it will also open more doors for them in their personal and professional lives. Additionally, Laramore highly recommends a career path in education for those who

have a high command of language. Teaching a language allows one to continuously learn through professional development and travel. Additionally, Laramore states that education is such a rewarding career because it gives her the opportunity to affect students for the rest of their lives and provide them with a language skill that can be applied to their careers. For this same reason, she recommends that any college student consider majoring in a language.

Although students may be fearful of making mistakes in a new language, Laramore recommends students be willing to do so. When we were learning our first language, we made errors, but corrected them over time. Thus, a second language acquisition process can model our first if we are open to making mistakes and continuously expose ourselves to programs in the target language and new interpersonal interactions. Even though this is a timely process, Laramore believes the outcomes of language learning can be fruitful in a future career.

