

Franklin Serrano

B.A. Spanish, 2018

**Teacher, Greenwood High School,
Bowling Green, Kentucky**

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“Being bilingual has opened doors in many aspects of my life.”



Franklin Serrano is a WKU alumnus who majored in Spanish with a concentration in teacher certification. When arriving at WKU, he decided to continue with the development of his Spanish language proficiency because he knew that it could open many doors for him professionally because language is a highly marketable skill. Today, Serrano uses his understanding and mastery of the Spanish language in teaching non-natives and heritage speakers at Greenwood High School in Bowling Green, KY.

Serrano recalls some highlights of his Spanish and education programs on the Hill. One of the best things about the program in his own eyes is getting the experience to learn about the diversity of the Spanish-speaking world. Because there are many countries that speak Spanish, there is diversity in language and cultural practices, but Serrano came to understand these differences over the course of his program. Moreover, Serrano saw that getting to know people with similar passions in teaching and education was inspiring. He comments that teaching provides wide opportunities for Spanish speakers, as it allows them to transmit their knowledge to future generations who can use their skills in a globalized society, creating a solid future for everyone. Additionally, Serrano says that his programs also gave preparation for a variety of other disciplines since Spanish is the second most widely spoken language on the planet, giving it a huge role in economy, art, and literature.

For the reasons above, students who are giving a language major some thought should definitely major in the language. Serrano explains that being bilingual has opened so many doors in his life from being the subject he teaches to the vehicle of communication with parents of students who lack English skills. For students struggling to learn another language, Serrano recommends visualizing oneself working in the language and explore the “deep meaning” of learning a language. This reminder of learning

motives can help create persistence in language learning and can help create realistic and concrete language proficiency goals. But, Serrano explains that there is a place for fun in the learning process: finding programs to watch, listening to music, and reading books are all activities that can be performed in the target language. Keeping goals in mind and making learning fun, as Serrano explains, can lead to opening many doors.

