Claudia A Hernandez WLC 300-01 Personal Statement

When I started college, I actually wanted to be an engineer. That was my goal and what I was pursuing when I applied. Initially, I started working towards my general education classes first, even though I already knew what I was going for as a career. I made this choice because I knew that anything could happen or change in this journey that I'm taking. Which certainly, it did. As part of my general requirements, I had to take a language course and I chose to take Spanish, since it was my first language and it's part of my roots and culture. I didn't think much of it, I thought of this course as just another class I needed to take. Yet, that particular Spanish class changed my whole perspective on what I wanted to major in. Taking classes was an experience that I hadn't enjoyed in a while, yet I enjoyed learning about this subject and looked forward to the class. The professor was passionate about the subject and you were able to tell he enjoyed what he was teaching and he was also inspiring. He made me realize that, I wanted to be like him. He made me realize that I wanted to learn about my roots and my first language. I learned so much in the course, it was a subject that I was enjoying learning about, and it made me realize that one day I would be able to teach it as well, and with the same enthusiasm.

My experience at California State University of Monterey Bay has been incredible. My knowledge has expanded and I keep learning new information every semester. I've learned about the culture, the language, the history, and the different countries that speak Spanish. I have also seen how my skills in speaking, writing and reading Spanish have drastically improved. Even the people around me have noticed how much improvement I have accomplished in this time learning more about the Spanish language and culture.

After I graduate I am planning on applying to the Master Program for Spanish. My career goal is to get my PhD and become a Spanish professor. Being a professor is my career goal because I want to dedicate myself to keeping my roots alive. I would love to teach another language and how important that other language is. I enjoy the culture, history and structure of the language. This major has been an eyeopening experience for me and I want others to enjoy this same experience. The language itself is fascinating. I love how one word can have so many meanings and how people from different countries can interpret it into so many different ways. For me, being a professor is about being able to talk and teach about a language that I'm passionate about and to teach what that language has to offer and teach the learner about itself and themselves.