

Carelen Matias

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WLC 300

Personal Statement

My name is Carelen Matias. I was born in Salinas, California, but I grew up in a small town in Oaxaca, Mexico. Throughout the years that I lived in Oaxaca, I learned to love and value the Oaxacan language and culture. At a young age, I learned to read and write which I enjoyed, but above all, I enjoyed reading stories the most. Reading was always one of my best companions in life. Years later, I returned to live in my birthplace. I faced many new challenges being exposed to a new culture and language. I had a hard time learning English and more than once I feel frustrated that I knew Spanish but not English. Over time I began getting better in English, not only reading, writing but speaking as well, however, that never stopped me from reading in Spanish because that was my refuge.

When the time to make a decision about what major/career I would continue with, I thought a lot about how I had at one point looked down on my Spanish roots and decided to reward it. My idea has always been clear, I want to be a Spanish teacher and teach the language I know best. I decided to study Spanish because I do not want to forget my culture and my language. I want to transmit the language and let people know that it is just as important as any other language in the world.

After high school, I went to study at Hartnell College where I completed my general education and received my Associate of Arts Transfer (AAT) in Spanish. After Hartnell, I decided to attend California State University, Monterey Bay, a university with a lot of diversity, but also where the Latino community is big. I always heard positive comments about this university such as being recognized for having very good professors, good education programs and above all, for a great support to students. My stay at CSUMB has been very comfortable, I have taken the classes that my major requires and I have improved a lot in my Spanish. I have met teachers who have gotten the best out of me, received countless support from them, all while learning how the system works at the same time.

Lastly, when I conclude with my education at CSUMB I would like to start the program for the Master's degree or I would also like to start working at a school. After finishing with my BA and my Master's I want to work with adults who are illiterate and provide the support to teach them to read and write. In the Latino community there are many people who do not have the opportunity to get an education and I would like to help those people gain the knowledge necessary to be successful.