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Professor Guadano

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Spanish 395 Reflection Paper

Throughout the semester my classmates and I were presented with some opportunities that were both unexpected and incredibly beneficial. For myself, I think that this course was the opportunity of a lifetime for my academic career. As a fluent Spanish speaker, I have been blessed with the opportunity to translate many items and interpret in many different settings throughout my entire life, starting at a very young age for my own family members, but this course provided me with a professional setting and training where I could expand my knowledge on how to actively communicate with an individual who needs interpretation on the spot. This course also provided us with the opportunity to collaborate with our classmates as we worked diligently throughout the semester translating multiple forms. For us, it sometimes felt like practice, working in groups to translate sections of a bigger informative form, but seeing it develop into something that was going to serve the Spanish speaking community on a higher level was very eye opening and rewarding. Although it would have been nice to have met more times as a class throughout each week, I still am very grateful for the time we spent together learning more about using the Spanish language in a real world setting.

This course is going to help me in many ways in my professional career. I am a Human Services major and plan on becoming a school counselor in the future. Having Spanish speaking

capabilities will give me the opportunity to help students and parents in the school system with the language barrier, creating a more comfortable environment for them and handling any confusion or questions they may have. Because being a Human Services professional requires helping people all the time, I think the skills I acquired in this course will help me speak to native speakers, from countries different to my own, in a counselor-client setting because I know now that expanding my knowledge about the vocabulary of other countries can play a very significant role.

There are some settings outside of my professional setting and school setting that the skills I learned in this course will benefit me when helping others around me. Like I mentioned before, I have always helped my family members when there is a language barrier. If I am present and can help relieve that, I do so to the best of my ability. After taking this class, I think I will be able to be a more effective communicator between both parties in an interpreted conversation for my family members or even a stranger at the supermarket. This class has given me the confidence I needed to be willing to jump to help a Spanish-speaking individual who has difficulties understanding, speaking, reading, or writing in English. I look forward to using the skills I learned in this class in a real world setting. I see these skills helping me help others for as long as I may live.

I am very thankful for the opportunity Professor Guadano provided our class with. Being able to work with the Dental Hygiene Clinic while also working as a group to translate forms for the university provided us with great practice in both translating and interpreting the Spanish language to or from English. I think my classmates, along with myself, are very comfortable and

excited to use the skills we have learned in this course both in our professional careers and personal lives.