

SPRING 2022

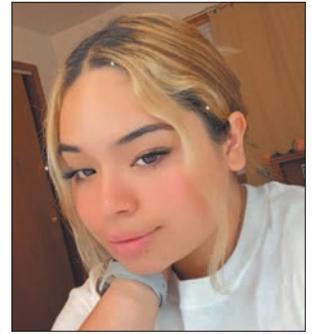
## *Bubbly Creek Endowed Scholarship Fund*

RECIPIENT

Vanessa Robles

**CITY:** Addison, IL

**DEGREE PROGRAM:** Associate in Arts



When I was in first grade, I was a Spanish bilingual student who got transferred to English-only classes. During this time, my English-speaking skills were honestly still sub-par, and I ended up failing that grade because of how much I struggled to even communicate. I also felt very out of place due to the lack of Spanish-speaking children there were, and it impacted me socially. During my second year of being in first grade, I was able to learn a lot better because of the support of one teacher: Ms. Piscilli. She was the reason I was able to finally get a good grasp of the English language, and one thing she would always do is emphasize her words with her mouth so that it was easy for me to understand during our lessons. She had an endless amount of patience and kindness, which is so important to a child who already felt out of place. She embodied everything a teacher should be and more. For this reason, I have since then made being a teacher just like her my career of choice, and then a school principal after that. Specifically, a teacher that can help out bilingual kids when they are struggling.

Officially, I am majoring in Early Childhood Education. This semester I attended my Introduction of Education class. I was able to observe a class that allowed me to do a one-on-one learning experience with various students. I did these observation classes at Gary Elementary School for a cumulative 20 hours. Seeing as this was as close as a first experience in the classroom as a teacher as it gets, it further solidified my choice of major, and I was able to learn so much from the experience. I was able to help students out whenever they needed help understanding the concepts we learned in class, or even just be morale support. Gary is also a school with a large Spanish bilingual population, so I felt like I could connect with the students on a deeper level. Although I had only tipped my toes in the water, I felt myself step into the shoes of Ms. Piscilli. I learned the ways that the teacher, Ms. Robles, applied learning methods in the classroom, and how she individually accommodates each student. It is an experience I will consider my first stepping stone and will reference for many years to come. This semester, I plan on continuing my introduction and general education classes as a full-time student. After having done my two years at the College of DuPage, I plan on transferring to the University of Illinois Chicago. I also plan on attending graduate-level classes so that I can prepare to become a school principal and make further administrative changes to accommodate all students. It is important that all students are being taught and supported by teachers like Ms. Piscilli, on all levels and in every field of study, and I want to ensure that it happens.