Spanish Language Policy in New Mexico

“In my Engaged Learning project (also submitted for Departmental Distinction in Spanish), I have researched the diverse language policies that New Mexico has taken to promote Spanish and Spanish-speakers in the state. I do this by outlining the pertinent political and sociolinguistic history, exploring the objective vitality of Spanish using the framework by Giles, Bourhis & Taylor¹, and lastly, focusing specifically on bilingual multicultural education and the “English-Plus” approaches. Using these variables and examples, I demonstrate that Spanish is experiencing overall maintenance due to particular policies, demographics, and cultural institutions that protect the rights of Spanish-speakers in the state. I suggest that with the increase in the population of Spanish-speakers in the United States, other states can learn from New Mexico’s strategies.

I will be presenting my thesis on Spanish language policy in New Mexico at the 19th Annual Ohio State University Congress on Hispanic and Lusophone Linguistics (OSUCHiLL), held in conjunction with the conference on Current Approaches to Spanish and Portuguese Second Language Phonology (CASPSLaP). OSUCHiLL is an annual conference for scholars, primarily graduate students and professors in Spanish linguistics, in the field of Spanish and Portuguese linguistics held in Columbus, Ohio. It attracts experts from around the country and is organized by the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at The Ohio State University. This year, two of OSU’s most distinguished alumni, Dr. Timothy Face and Dr. Patricia Amaral, will be keynote speakers.”
– Justin Hicks