

Paul Polanco



Paul Polanco is originally from the Dominican Republic. He is a third-year doctoral student at the Simmons School of Education at SMU. His research focuses on the economic outcomes of bilingualism and biliteracy on Hispanic students in terms of labor market participation, income potential, and career choices. Under his fellowship at SMU, he has worked with Dr. Doris Baker on the development of an intelligent tutoring system teaching vocabulary in depth to Hispanic second-graders. At SMU, Paul has also worked as adjunct faculty teaching various courses around the subjects of bilingualism and effective teaching practices for diverse learners. Paul's career started as a banker obtaining a MBA in corporate finance, then transitioning as a teacher where he found his true passion. He worked for nine years as a bilingual teacher in the Dallas Independent School District. Paul has presented in various national and international conferences around the topics of bilingual programs effectiveness and

effective teaching practices for bilingual students and diverse learners in general. With his work around biliteracy and bilingualism, he hopes to influence educational policy to create opportunities for the Hispanic community.