



WICHITA STATE
UNIVERSITY

Study Abroad Spotlight

Former Student



Kent Hicks

Graduated: MA in Spanish,
May 2011

Study Abroad Program:
Puebla Spanish Language Program
Sessions: *Summer 2003 & 2008*

"I have worked at Arkansas City High School, Garden Plain High School, Wichita State University as a GTA, and Wichita High School South, teaching Spanish language. Next year, I will teach Social Studies in Spanish at Horace Mann Middle School."

Q: How did the summer programs in Puebla, Mexico prepare you for your future teaching positions?

A: The Puebla Program has motivated me to teach well. The program gave me the opportunity to link what I teach in the classroom to real-life experiences in Spanish. Without attending the program, I wouldn't be able to relate our school's curriculum to practical, useable Spanish.

Q: Why would you recommend the Puebla program to others who want to learn Spanish?

A: While reading a newspaper or watching a telenovela on TV is very helpful, nothing replaces going to a Spanish - speaking country and absorbing all you can. You can learn in a day in Puebla what it would take you a week of studying at home. The best way is to go.

Q: What did you gain from your study abroad experience in Puebla?

A: My Spanish degree has helped me in jobs that require Spanish. But, what I remember most about all my studying at WSU are good experiences during the Puebla Program. I miss Puebla and it's like a home away from home. As I'm writing about my Puebla experiences, my half-packed suitcase is beside my computer desk, ready for tomorrow's flight. I enjoyed Puebla that much. I'll always be going back.

