



Transfer Success Story



Javier Jasso

B.F.A., The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, 2017

M.F.A., University of Illinois at Chicago, 2019

I moved back to the U.S from Mexico when I was 15 years old, around the time I was to begin high school. I knew the next step was college, but coming from a low-income family, college was just a dream. My advisor at Steinmetz High School suggested City Colleges of Chicago. She assigned Truman College to me, but instead, I decided to attend Wilbur Wright College, simply because it was closer to my house. Little did I know I was going to find excellent professors and advisors at Wright. My first day of college made me realize that I had the opportunity to be the first one in my family to complete a bachelor's degree!

When I attended Wilbur Wright College, my goal was to finish my two years of general studies and then transfer to a four-year university to prepare to become a biologist. However, the influence of my professors made me realize that I had a keen passion for the arts. I remember taking a drawing class with Professor Dan Galemb. He mentioned that he was a sculptor and had graduated from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC). I knew he was someone I could talk to about art. Besides drawing, and biology classes, I was also interested in making sculptures, so I decided to start making little sculptures in my room. One day, I decided to take one of my sculptures and show it to Professor Dan, just to get feedback from him. He took the sculpture, and we walked to a different room; there I was introduced to Professor Rory Leonard. After that semester, I worked closely with Professors Dan and Rory; they were not only my professors but also my mentors. They guided me and helped me to build an art portfolio so that I could transfer to The School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Along my journey I met a host of exceptional professors in other disciplines that shaped my education and led me to complete my goals. I was a student assistant for Professor Christine Marriot and Professor Rory. I also worked as a student ambassador in the Advising and Transfer Center. The Wright College experience, exceptional teaching, comprehensive academic and support services; tutors, advisors, and professors prepared me to succeed in my transition to a four-year college.

During the fall of 2015, with the unconditional support from the Director of the Transfer Center, Susan Calabrese, the Advising and Transfer Center team, my professors and President Potash, I began my transition to SAIC. I was awarded a Merit Scholarship and consequently a full ride; all of my tuition was covered. In pursuit of my passion, I completed a bachelor's from SAIC and a master's degree in Studio/Fine Arts from The University of Illinois at Chicago. Now I serve as an adjunct faculty at Wilbur Wright College, where I teach Drawing and Art Appreciation. I came full circle!