



Pitt State Welcomes Student from BECAL Program

The Fall 2021 semester marks the fourth semester that Pittsburg State University has received students from the Paraguayan National Scholarship Program, known as BECAL.

Lourdes Gabriela Alvarez Caceres Caceres, has come to Pitt State to study Graphic Design as part of the program; which sends students and professionals to top universities around the world for one semester with all expenses paid.



The recipients for the scholarship are placed in Kansas universities, as the government chose the Committee Paraguay Kansas to administer the prestigious program. The program is very competitive, with over a hundred applicants being narrowed down to 16 students receiving scholarships.

“Students are chosen based on their English proficiency, academic merits and leadership among other things,” said Mirian Mongelos, BECAL-CPK Program Sponsor. “They choose PSU based on their academic needs and because they just have a gut feeling they will love PSU. It’s like they feel it’s the right place for them to be.”

Alvarez Caceres said she studied for approximately six months for the exam and interview for the program, but that it was worth it.

“But it is a great opportunity for people like me who want to study abroad, so it’s amazing to have this opportunity now in Paraguay,” Alvarez Caceres said.

Once accepted to the program, Alvarez Caceres had the choice of seven Kansas universities to apply to. She ultimately chose Pitt State because it suited her academic needs, and the variety of courses offered was appealing. She was also attracted by students being able to take classes across various disciplines and outside their major with flat rate tuition, which allows her to take a variety of art classes.

“...we can take subjects from other (fields) also,” Alvarez Caceres said. “That’s why I chose this university, was also because I can improve my creativity taking art subjects. I love the classes. I really like them, I am sure I can use them in my country.”

Only two weeks into the semester, Alvarez Caceres said she loves “everything” about Pitt State so far.



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“The different tools that the International Office gives us, are great,” she said. “It’s more easy to ask to enroll in the courses, to know which courses we can take. It’s like we have... the week of Orientation was very useful for us to know how the things going on, what we have to expect about the university...”

Alvarez Caceres also noted how personable the teachers at PSU are, and how much her interactions with them have made her experience thus far a positive one.

“The teachers, they are very friendly with us,” she said. “They advise, they take time to respond any kind of questions, especially for me because I tell them I am international student, so they give me more time, even after classes, so that is very important for me.”