

**Name: Jazmin Brito**

**Nominated by: Sunny Park-Johnson**

Jazmin Brito is unequivocally the most competent, resourceful, and reliable student employee I have ever had. As a research assistant in the Bilingual Language Development (BiLD) Lab since Winter 2018, she has been instrumental in bettering the way in which our research is conducted, organized, and planned. Below I will speak to her reliability, quality of work, initiative, professionalism, contribution to the community, and uniqueness of contribution.

Jazmin is not only reliable in that she can be trusted 100% with her own responsibilities; she keeps us faculty members reliable as well. Jazmin is the one who sends reminders to me that we need to collect data or to follow up with a research participant. My colleague and I were presenting at a conference in Europe and needed quick revisions to our presentation. We asked Jazmin if she could look at it, and she not only updated the presentation within hours, but she also read a handful of research papers to supplement our powerpoint. We would not put this kind of trust in just anyone, but we knew Jazmin could do it and do it well.

This brings us to the second point: quality of work. Because of Jazmin's excellent writing, reading, and presentation skills—and her deep knowledge of our research—my faculty colleague and I have invited her to present at a number of conferences with us (e.g., Bilingualism Forum 2018, Hispanic Linguistics Symposium 2018, Talks in Linguistics at UIC 2019). She has also co-authored a number of publications with us, including the paper entitled Language Choice and Use by Bilingual Preschoolers: Evidence from a Spanish Immersion Preschool for the Hispanic Linguistics Symposium Proceedings. We normally do not invite undergraduate research assistants to work on publications with us, but Jazmin's consistent quality of work warranted collaboration.

Jazmin also shows immense initiative in the BiLD Lab, creating streamlined ways to organize our data and data collection process. She does this unsolicited, and always does it well. She also has taken it upon herself to train new research assistants so that they are familiar with the system. Jazmin also put together a new research project, which she then presented at the Chicago Area Undergraduate Research Symposium in 2019.

Her professionalism is also a characteristic I can always count on. As part of our research, Jazmin often goes to the schools that we partner with, both as a liaison for us and also to collect data. The partners at the schools are constantly pleased with how professional, courteous, and respectful she is as a guest in the school.

Relatedly, one of Jazmin's many strengths is her contribution to the community. Jazmin herself is a Spanish-speaker, and the school where we collect data is a Spanish-immersion school that is attended by many Latino children. The teachers, parents, and children at the school are more receptive of her and have welcomed her into their community. Jazmin is also seen as a role model to the children: a



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Latino woman and proficient bilingual who is part of a research team. This is something unique that cannot be manufactured, and that reflects the mission of DePaul University.

In sum, I believe Jazmin Brito deserves to be honored as an exemplary student employee. I cannot stress enough how much she had contributed to our lab, to our research, and to the children and families in the research. I am truly honored to have been her supervisor these past several years.