

Video Transcript

Learn about Cha Kai and Miguel's work at WIDA

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[MUSIC PLAYING]

I'm Cha Kai Yang. I'm 21 years old. What kind of work do you do here? I water the plants, restock papers, and I do typing on the computer. What kind of work were you doing today? Making coffee.

Are we open for business? Yeah, we are. Good morning. Good morning. Looking good. All right, mister. Yeah, I know you're excited. Are you going to pump it up? Want some help? You got it. [INAUDIBLE] Do it together.

Can you tell me what your name is? M-I-G-U-E-L. Yeah. Miguel. You were telling me earlier that you have your birthday coming up? Yeah. And you're going to be 24. And what kind of work do you do at WIDA? Yeah, you do all sorts of types of stuff. M-A-I-L. Oh, you do the mail. I see. So you sort the mail and then you deliver it to people as well, and make sure it goes where it needs to.

In an official capacity, Miguel and Cha Kai are office associates for WIDA. What that means is that they provide a large amount of administrative support for us, and daily tasks that are really critical to the work that we do. So that could be delivering our mail, making sure that we have supplies organized and ordered, working on special projects.

What were you doing today? C-O-F-F-E. I see. So you were doing coffee today. So you're helping people with a coffee and the donuts. Do I drop it in here? Yeah. And we have a tip right here. This is teamwork right here, gentlemen. Yeah. Terrific. Thank you. Yeah, well, boom. Do you like doing that on Friday? Yeah. Is that one of your favorite things? Yeah.

The idea itself started after Miguel and Cha Kai were with WIDA. And Cha Kai specifically saw a need within our staff. He's trying to grow his food service skills, as well. Everybody here loves coffee. Who doesn't love coffee. And who doesn't want to

walk outside and get it half the time in the winter in Wisconsin? So they really saw the need. We tried a few different options and ways that we could distribute it. And we have a system now that works really well.

So they put the coffee out and it's a pay as you grab on your own honor system. And they put together the items and clean them up every day as part of their task. And then on Fridays they do sit in the 12th floor lunchroom. And then staff can come and interact with them. I sit right across the hall so I can hear their conversations and interactions and how excited Miguel and Cha Kai get to see all the staff. It's really, really special.

I want a cup of coffee. You do like working with people here? And then you like to tell people about the weather, right? You keep us updated about if it's raining or sunny. Is there anything that you like to do? M-- yeah. You like greeting people on Mondays. You like the different days of the week, Monday, Tuesday--Yeah. Yeah. I see. So you like seeing everybody on Monday through Friday. Yeah.

Do you speak any other languages? Yeah. What kind of languages do you speak? S-A-M-S-H—are you saying Spanish? I see. Very good. Yeah. So you speak Spanish at home. What are you doing this weekend? Weekend. Should I take it out of there? Plans. Look at you. It's totally awesome. Yeah? What is it? What are you doing? Your birthday? [INAUDIBLE] Twenty-two years old. Yeah.

Everybody here really loves interacting with them. I know I'm greeted every morning when I walk in the door by Miguel. It always puts a smile on my face. In addition, they're a good reminder to our staff of the work that we do. And so working with students that are multilingual learners but also have significant disabilities. We're reminded every day of that with them being here. And then reminding ourselves of the work and things that we need to be conscientious about, special requirements, clear communication. Just ensuring that every day they're a reminder how important it is that the students that we reach and the work that they do.

So what do you like about working with the people here at WIDA? They've been nice to me. They introduce me to new people when they come in.

What kind of job do you want to do in the future? A restaurant. Would you like to work at a restaurant? Yeah. Yeah. Like serving things to them. Have you worked in a restaurant? No, not yet. No, but you like restaurants a lot? Yeah. Do you go with your family--Yeah--quite a bit to restaurants? Yeah. Very cool.

And with your friends and family, do you use any other languages? Yeah, I do. Yeah. What type of language do you use. Hmong, English. You use that with your family members? Yeah. I speak with my mom. What parts of your work at WIDA do you want to keep doing? All the things. Lots of things? No. I said, all the things. Oh, all the things.

Yeah, yeah.

[MUSIC PLAYING]