



4-2001

## The Economics Department Brings Another Professor Aboard

Kory Blumer '03

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/parkplace>

---

### **Recommended Citation**

Blumer '03, Kory (2001) "The Economics Department Brings Another Professor Aboard," *The Park Place Economist*: Vol. 9

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/parkplace/vol9/iss1/9>

This Article is protected by copyright and/or related rights. It has been brought to you by Digital Commons @ IWU with permission from the rights-holder(s). You are free to use this material in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. For other uses you need to obtain permission from the rights-holder(s) directly, unless additional rights are indicated by a Creative Commons license in the record and/ or on the work itself. This material has been accepted for inclusion by faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University. For more information, please contact [digitalcommons@iwu.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@iwu.edu).

©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.

---

## The Economics Department Brings Another Professor Aboard

### Abstract

"Mendez is grateful for the strong relationships that he built with his professors. Now, as a professor, he wants to give his students something that he once received."

# The Economics Department Brings Another Professor Aboard

By Kory Blumer

Diego Mendez-Carbajo is the newest addition to the economics department here at Illinois Wesleyan University. His journey to Illinois Wesleyan, however, started from afar to say the least. Mendez has lived in Madrid, Spain almost all his life. He received his primary and secondary education in Madrid as well as attending the University of Autonoma (in Madrid) where he received a Bachelor of Arts in Economics. Mendez then completed his first year of the Ph.D. program in Economics at the same university before moving on to Florida International University in Miami to further his education. Three years later at FIU, in April 1998, Mendez received a Master of Arts in Economics. In November of '99, after extensive research, Mendez made a "nerve-racking" presentation at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. His presentation, entitled "Economic Integration Under the Presence of Input-Generated Externalities", looked at the positive and negative consequences of countries coming together to form economic unions. In order to analyze the consequences, Mendez and his colleagues formed a model that made assumptions and simplified the complexities of integration. They concluded that although the process itself has its ups and downs, the overall economic effect is positive. According to their research, integration will minimize waste, eliminate duplication, and increase GDP per capita for the participating parties. In April 2000, Mendez was awarded a Ph.D. in Economics, with international macroeconomics as his field of research.

So why did Dr. Mendez come to Bloomington, Illinois? His reasoning was simple-- "To get a job." But of course, there were other factors for his decision. Mendez turned down jobs at bigger

schools because he likes Illinois Wesleyan's small size and high-quality education. He also enjoys the many social and academic resources available to the students and faculty, and the fact that Bloomington is only two hours away from Chicago where Mendez frequently visits to "walk around downtown and eat

some Japanese food." Moreover, Mendez gets along well with other faculty members and is good friends with several professors, such as office-neighbor and second-year professor Dr. Ilaria Ossella-Durbal.

Mendez is very appreciative of the cordiality

of Illinois Wesleyan's students, and he feels that the students "know what they are talking about" and are always "on the money" during in-class discussions. Mendez provides a casual atmosphere with his students and his "door is always open to talk about anything." As a former college student himself, Mendez is grateful for the strong relationships that he built with his professors. Now, as a professor, he wants to give his students something that he once received.

Mendez does have an off-campus life, believe it or not. When away from the classroom he enjoys listening to Opera music. In fact, he plans to get season tickets for the Opera in Chicago, when he finds the time. He also likes to keep up with his favorite "futbol" team, Real Madrid, who are once again making a run at the European Cup. Mendez was an umpire for a semi-professional futbol league back in Spain. In addition, he tries to catch an episode or two of "Friends", "ER", and "Law and Order", although he stays busy at night preparing for classes and presentations. However, Diego always finds time to see "The Daily News" with Jon Stewart on Comedy Central.

*"Mendez is grateful for the strong relationships that he built with his professors. Now, as a professor, he wants to give his students something that he once received."*