

Chantel Wilson, B.A. English, Literature, 2014

By Madelyn Chambers

Equal Employment Opportunity Coordinator and Title IX Assistant, Western Kentucky University

"Whether we know it or not, English, reading, writing is at the basis of who we are as people."



Chantel Wilson (née Bowman) graduated *cum laude* with her bachelor's degree from WKU in 2014, majoring in Literature and minoring in Professional Writing. She will graduate with her master's degree in Organizational Leadership from WKU in May 2019. Currently, she works for WKU as the Equal Employment Opportunity Coordinator and Title IX Assistant.

As a Bowling Green native, Wilson chose WKU because "I grew up with Western. I grew up with Big Red, so it's always been close to my heart, and even now I hope my kids go here."

Many classes at WKU encouraged Wilson's love of English. Poetry class with Dr. Tom Hunley and "Editing and Publishing" with Dr. Angela Jones were her favorites; Wilson says she uses editing techniques learned in Dr. Jones' course every day. Wilson says her literature courses with Dr. Sandra Hughes, Dr. Nikolai Endres, and Dr. Alison Langdon have helped her with "putting things in context, understanding people and how people have always been that way.... It's more applicable than you think to understand people and become world citizens." Wilson also interned with Itoh Press through the [Department of English internship program](#).

After graduating with her bachelor's degree, Wilson searched for a job that would exercise her English skills for a few months and finally found it with the [Equal Employment Opportunity](#) office. "[English] is actually what got me hired," says Wilson. Her supervisor was specifically looking for someone skilled in writing and editing, and Wilson's degree had prepared her to do exactly that.

"In this office, we investigate sexual misconduct, sexual harassment, discrimination from an employee-to-student or student-to-employee situation," explained Wilson. She

creates case files with detailed notes from interviews, edits Title IX policies, and maintains the office's website. She is also currently working on her master's degree in Organizational Leadership, which will prepare her to move into a leadership role in the future. When she isn't at work or school, Wilson enjoys spending time with her children, reading fantasy series like *Under the Never Sky*, and participating in programs at her church.



Wilson offered sage advice to current English students. She recommends that students “listen to your inner self. We can be perfectionists and we can be over achievers. Forgive yourself for the mistakes you make along the way. Give yourself credit where credit is due.” When applying for jobs, Wilson recommends English majors should “know how to market yourself. Even if it's not specifically English, talk about how those skills can aid you in another position.” Those very skills have aided her in achieving the career and academic success she has today.

