Valentino Vasquez was born deaf and raised in a Spanish-speaking family. He attended a public school learning to talk and sign in English and discovered a new identity as a Deaf person acquiring American Sign Language while enrolling at Gallaudet College in Washington, D.C., the world's only liberal arts college for deaf and hard of hearing students. Vasquez teaches ASL and American Deaf Culture courses for the Communication Disorders and Sciences Department in the College of Education at the University of Oregon.

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