

Student Panel, WSAC Council Meeting May 27th, 2020

Yazmin Aguilar, M.Ed., Deputy Director, Centro Latino

Yazmin Aguilar currently serves as Deputy Director for Centro Latino, a non-profit located in Tacoma Washington that serves the Latino and Indigenous communities. Yazmin holds a master's degree in education from the UW and is also a DACA recipient. She also served as the former WSAC Council student representative.

Guillermo Rogel, Jr., Executive Director, Washington Student Association

Guillermo is no stranger to the world of student advocacy and empowerment. After serving as Chair for the University of California Student Association and one of UC Santa Cruz's student body presidents, Guillermo joined the Washington Student Association as our Organizing Director. Tasked with connecting students to our legislative and policy priorities, he was able to travel Washington and visit students at each of our member campuses. Guillermo assumed his new role as Executive Director in April of 2017. As a proud son of immigrant parents from Mexico and El Salvador, he hopes to make our systems of higher education accessible and affordable for all students. If Guillermo finds free time, he enjoys playing tennis or making a new to-do list.

Maria Mondragon, Columbia Basin College

I was born in Cuernavaca, Morelos, Mexico, and immigrated to the United States with my mom at the age of nine months. Since then, I have resided in Benton City, WA, and am the proud eldest daughter of four siblings. After not being able to wrestle in Montana because of my immigration status, I was able to attend my local community college and serve as the co-President for a club that helps represent undocumented students. I am the first person in my family to ever go to college, and was recently accepted into the College of Education at WSU Tri-Cities. Being an undocumented student has been one of the hardest, yet most rewarding things that I have experienced. Nevertheless, my goal is to impact young children's lives by inspiring them that education is the key to success!

Elizabeth Perez, Columbia Basin College

My name is Elizabeth Perez. I am a student at Columbia Basin College, and I will be transferring to WSU Tri-cities in the fall to pursue an education career. I am undocumented but have the privilege to obtain DACA, which has allowed me to continue my education and obtain a job. I currently work as a Census Civic Promoter in the BlueBridge of Tri-Cities fellowship, working for LULAC TC and Latino Community Fund to promote the importance of Census participation within minority groups. Lastly, along with Maria Mondragon and Bryan Donis, I have been involved with the Dreams Without Borders club at CBC to bring awareness of our undocumented students at CBC and obtain resources on and off the CBC campus.

Maria Yepez, Washington State University

My name is Maria Yepez, and I am 22 years old. I was born in Aguililla, Michoacan, Mexico. I migrated to the United States at the age of nine in 2006, and I have been living in Pasco since. I am a graduating senior at Washington State University with a degree in Spanish and Social Sciences with concentrations in Political Science and Business Administration. I plan to pursue law school and become an immigration lawyer. In my free time I enjoy working out, playing volleyball, and enjoying family and friends.

Nancy Canales Montiel, Central Washington University

My name is Nancy Canales-Montiel, I am finishing my third year at Central Washington University where I am pursuing a degree in Political Science and Public Policy. I am a first-generation student with dreams of holding a seat in the Washington State Legislature one day. I am very passionate about creating equitable policy for all and hope to continue my work influencing legislation through non-profit organizations until then. In my free time I enjoy spending time with my friends and family, hiking, and watching movies.

Adah Barenburg, Western Washington University

Adah (She/Her/Hers) is a second year student working on her BA in Political Science/Philosophy/Economics and has been involved in student government ever since she arrived at WWU. While Adah was born in Washington, her parents' work for the Department of Defense lead her to live in South Korea in her youth and Italy while in high school before deciding to return to Washington to attend WWU. She is currently serving as the Senate Pro Tempore representing the over 16,000 students on academic and technology issues. As the chair of the Student Senate, she helps guide 20 student representatives on issues that affect historically marginalized communities, graduate students, and international student issues. Since COVID-19 moved Western to online instruction, Adah has been collaborating with students, faculty, administration, and her community to craft policies to respond to the pandemic.