

ADULT AND HIGHER EDUCATION

Fall 2020



In this issue:

PROGRAM GREETINGS
SUMMER AND SPRING GRADUATES
AHE VOTES
STUDENT SPOTLIGHT
COVID-19
GSAC
MAKE A DIFFERENCE



Adult & Higher Education

Fall 2020

Program Greetings

The Adult & Higher Education (AHE) program is housed in the Department of Health & Community Studies, Woodring College of Education at Western Washington University. We are located on the fourth floor of Miller Hall.

We are pleased to provide this newsletter to keep you informed about work and activities of our faculty, our students and our alumni.

Dean of Woodring College

Dr. Bruce Larson

Chair, Health & Community Studies

Dr. John Korsmo

AHE Program Director

Dr. Sondra Cuban

AHE Fall Faculty

Sondra Cuban, Stan Goto, Gail Goulet, Shevell Thibou, George Zhao

Program Coordinator

Sherry Haskins

Contact

360.650.3190

Website

<https://wce.wvu.edu/ahe>



Good Luck Graduates

Spring 2020

Betty Anzaldúa
Lionel Candido
Jonathan Kim
Brien Reed
Amanda Robertson
Cara Story
Estevan Vivanco Meza
Emma Winningham

Summer 2020

Hannah Lovett

Welcome New Students

Lindsey Bauer
Molly Baumann
Austin Browning
Jessica Dean
Lisa Eddleman
Renata Gutierrez
Sarah Harris
Jake Huebsch
Jacob Kinser
Emily Marrs
April McMurry
Jared Nilsen
Tatyana Stahler
Rahel Weldu
Amber Zipperer

AHE VOTES



AHE Student Spotlight

Rico Martinez

Hello My name is Rico Martinez. I was born and raised in Bellingham. I graduated from WWU in June 2019 with my undergraduate degree in Human Services and a minor in Psychology. Throughout my undergraduate years I looked for ways to explore my passion for higher education through the internships I chose.



My track through higher education that led me to this program began back in high school. I decided to branch out from my small high school and do the Running Start program at Whatcom Community College (WCC). This allowed me to graduate from high school and complete my Associates degree at the same time in 2016. In my time as a student at WCC, I had a student leadership position as a student ambassador. After graduating from WCC I stayed and worked part-time.

When I began as an undergraduate student at WWU, I worked as a tour guide through Western's admissions office. I decided to continue pursuing higher education. After completing my undergraduate degree in 2019, I began working part time as an admissions counselor Western. At the same time, I immediately began the AHE graduate program, where I am happy to be now. I am in my fifth quarter of the program and have been enrolled full-time. I plan to graduate in the Spring of 2021.

AHE Student Spotlight

April McMurry

I'm April McMurry and I'm excited to be in my very first class of the AHE program. I'm active on campus through my work at Western's Office of Field Experience and as a Social Justice and Equity Committee member. Likewise, I engage in community efforts as a board member at Max Higbee Center and as an ad hoc member of Healthy Whatcom, which is led by Whatcom County's Health Department. I also stay busy with a kindergartner and that keeps life especially full now that I double as one of her at-home teachers.



As my Western roles changed over the years and my community work evolved, I started to more seriously consider how I could improve my adult education practices. Leadership positions in both nonprofit and university settings gave me many opportunities to engage university students and other adult learners, and while I valued these experiences, I've been eager to deepen my understanding of this field in order to become a more effective practitioner. I'd heard about Western's AHE program from others on campus and saw how colleagues infused their learning from the program into their work. After looking into it more closely, this program seemed like an ideal fit to push me toward personal and career goals because of both its reputation and course work.

The AHE program was especially appealing to pursue because of its emphasis on social justice and the progressive approach to leadership. Although I have deepened my awareness of systemic oppression and injustices in recent years, I still have much to learn and I am dedicated to ongoing education related to diversity, equity and inclusion. I'm looking forward to discovering how this program will build my capacity for creating more equitable learning (and action) spaces both on and off-campus.

AHE Student Spotlight

Lisa Eddleman

My name is Lisa Eddleman. I'm a new student and the Graduate Assistant in the AHE department. I received my undergraduate degree from Western and then spent 22 years in business, working in telecommunications and as a project manager. I'm a Seattle native but moved to Phoenix for work and stayed there 13 years. It is great to be back in the Northwest – constant sunshine is overrated!

Now it is time for a career change. Through some odd circumstances, I became a Basic Education student myself. I got involved in the GED program at Goodwill. I stayed to volunteer with the GED students as a classroom assistant and tutor. I loved it! That experience led me to my goal of working in Adult Basic Education.



I investigated other programs, but decided on Western for several reasons. I like the personal interaction the program provides and think that every person, whether professor or student, brings valuable input to the program. I especially like the emphasis on Social Justice. Finally, I know quite a few people that have graduated from this program and they all had great things to say about it.

I'm delighted to be back at Western. I loved it the first time around and plan on the same this time. I'm also looking forward to working as the department's graduate assistant. I'm excited to see what the Graduate Student Advisory Committee (GSAC) can accomplish this year and hope you'll want to be involved in that. If you are, just send me an e-mail at eddleml@wwu.edu.

In my personal time, I love the woods and water, reading, writing, and volunteering. Lately I've become fascinated with color and texture, and with the extra time at home because of Covid-19, I've begun experimenting with quilting and painting.

COVID-19 COVID-19

COVID-19 Haiku

**Alonzo is born.
Where are family members?
Waving through window.**

-Estevan Vivanco Meza, 2020



The pandemic, though terrifying and destructive in many ways, has also been a gift of time and calm. I am back in my studio remembering who I am. This is the happiest my introverted self has been in quite a while.

-Gail Cowan

COVID-19

COVID-19



Student Support Resources Are Still Available

Did you know student services are still available? Just like classes, student services have gone virtual. The Student Health Center even has same-day appointments. Please check them out—there are a lot of services you may not realize are available. Click on the links for how more information and instructions on accessing services. .

[List of Student Services](#)

[Health Center](#)

[Counseling Center](#)

[Prevention and Wellness Resources](#)

We moved from the Seattle area to Germany mid-January, and managed to get settled into work and school, and even find an apartment, before COVID-19 caused massive lockdowns in our area. Everything changed. My university moved all instruction online and my daughter's school closed – I was left teaching 8 classes online for a school which had never had online instruction before, while also being a full-time single mom responsible for homeschooling my 4th grade daughter in my second language (which she barely speaks).

Some days I am surprisingly productive and accomplish a lot; other days I feel overwhelmed and wonder how I am ever going to get through this. Throughout it all, I have been reminded to stay focused on small goals, as they can lead to large successes, and humbled by the kindness and patience of others, which reminds me I am not alone and shouldn't be afraid to ask for help.

Our experiences, both good and bad, are opportunities for us to learn and develop in a myriad of ways, some of which we cannot always see at the time; reflection brings them to light. Though we are living and working in an extreme time, with a pandemic and crisis unknown to many of us, my hope is that we come out of this stronger and better prepared to deal with what else life will throw at us.

- Jessica Weimer, 2014 graduate

Coronavirus at Western

If you've been wondering about the effect that the Coronavirus has been having at Western, check out this website. You'll find information on what to do if you feel sick, campus changes related to Covid-19, and statistics about on-campus student testing.

[Coronavirus at WWU](#)

Do you have a submission?

We'd love to put it in the newsletter!

If you, an alum, or current student is doing something interesting, incredible, or newsworthy, please let us know! We love to publish stories about how the AHE program has influenced, directed, or supported its students and faculty.

Please send ideas or submissions to Lisa Eddleman at eddleml@wwu.edu for consideration.

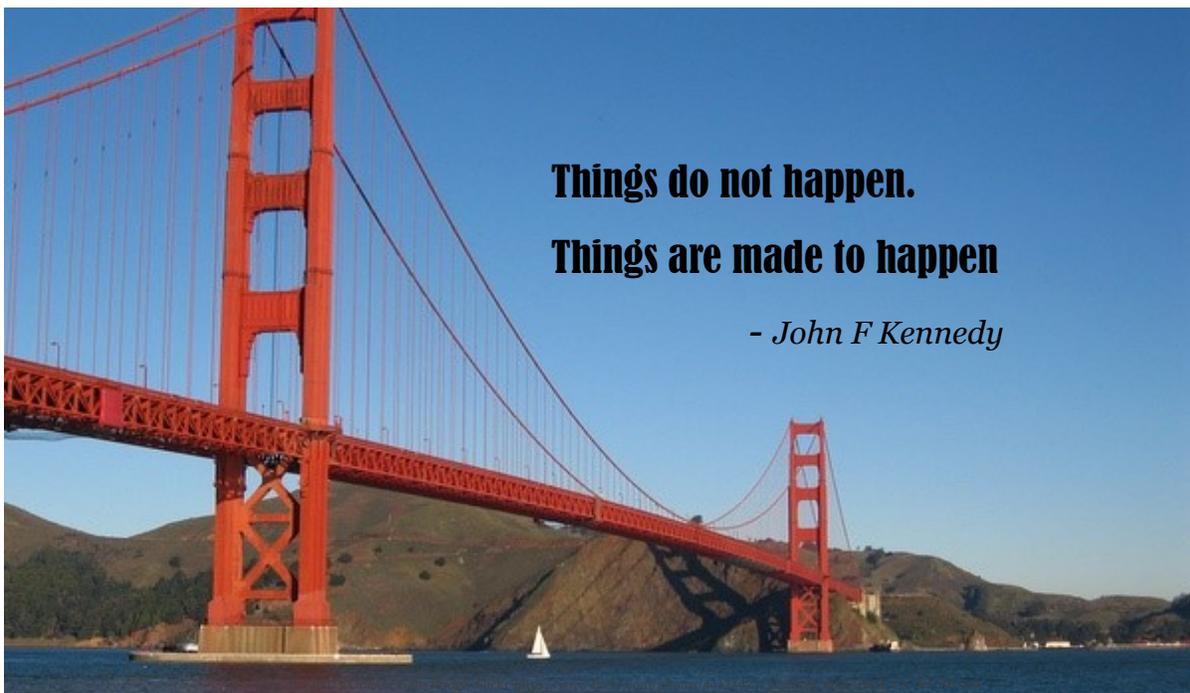
JOIN AHE GSAC

GRADUATE STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

GSAC is an organization of Adult & Higher Education graduate students dedicated to enhancing the program's graduate student experience at Western Washington University. The GSAC meets once each month via videoconferencing throughout the academic year. Once Covid allows, we can decide if we'd like to meet in person. We can determine the day and time to meet that works best for everyone.

The GSAC will meet once a month and discuss planning for the Spring 2021 Retreat, and other topics to improve student life in the AHE program. We will discuss the topics most relevant for students in the program.

We need your ideas and your participation. If you're interested in joining or have questions about the committee contact Lisa Eddleman at eddleml@wwu.edu. GSAC is set up to be able to have members attend using Zoom meetings.



Make a Difference

Help Wanted Wild Whatcom

**Paid
Position**

Position Opening: Wild Whatcom Field Mentor

Wild Whatcom is a flourishing non-profit organization dedicated to connecting youth to nature and developing positive character traits through outdoor exploration and discovery. We provide experiential learning opportunities that inspire participants to explore, connect, and serve, while building healthy relationships with nature, community, and self. Visit our website to learn more about our programs: www.wildwhatcom.org

Wild Whatcom seeks a motivated and highly-skilled educator to co-lead nature explorations, outdoor skills sessions, service projects, summer camps, and wilderness trips for a variety of Wild Whatcom programs. Specific information on this job opening can be found at www.wildwhatcom.org/employment.

Whatcom County
Human
Rights
Task
Force

**Volunteer
Position**

Seeking Board Member

The Whatcom County Human Rights Task Force (WHRTF) is looking for new members to promote and protect human rights for everyone living in Whatcom County. They are seeking new board members. Every effort is made to ensure that the composition of the board reflects diversity consistent with their mission: "Working Together, Weaving Together, Celebrating Together for a Just and Beloved Community."

If you are committed to social justice and have the time and energy to be a member of a board working at the grassroots level to organize, advocate, and educate our community in support of equity, inclusion, and mutual respect for all people, all the time, we would love to hear from you!

Please submit your application [here](#) by Sunday, November 8th. For more information on this group, please check their website, www.whrtf.org

November 13 is World Kindness Day at WWU

[WWU World](#)

[Kindness Day](#)

[Website](#)

[Check for Regular
Updates](#)

[Random Acts of](#)

[Kindness](#)

[Website](#)



World Kindness Day is to highlight good deeds in the community, focusing on the positive power and common thread of kindness which binds us. Kindness is a fundamental part of the human condition which bridges the divides of race, religion, politics, *gender* and zip codes. Kindness Cards are also an ongoing activity which can either be passed on to recognize an act of kindness and or ask that an act of kindness be done."