

# AHE WINTER Newsletter

MARCH 2024



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# CELEBRATING OUR AHE STUDENTS

**FELICIDADES A NUESTRAS  
GRADUADOS DE INVIERNO 2024**

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR  
WINTER 2024 GRADUATES**

Jasmine (Jazz) Balasa

Lauren Fryhle

Lizbeth Gaspar Gonzalez



# Maru Villalpando



Maru Mora Villalpando is coming to the AHE Spring Residential April 6th to give a talk on Latino Advocacy and Education.

<https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/government-drops-deportation-case-against-immigration-activist-maru-mora-villalpando/>

Maru Mora Villalpando is a community organizer with Northwest Detention Center (NWDC) Resistance, a grassroots group working to end the detention of immigrants and stop all deportations. Maru also is a founding member of MiJente, a national political home for Latinx communities across the U.S. She is a single mother who has been targeted by ICE and put on deportation proceedings by them. This is due to her work exposing the inhumane conditions at the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma, WA. Read about her experience in an article she wrote for the Community Based News Room. Maru is a regular CBNR contributor on immigration.

# Yalda Naimzadeh



Something interesting about my family is while they come from a country where educational access and resources are scarce, I come from a family where academia was and is important and achieved. My aunt in Afghanistan was a high-ranking supreme court judge, one of the first women in those positions and my uncle was dean of the French department at the University of Kabul and did his education and training in France. My uncle inspired me that even though he had the opportunity to stay in France and immigrate there, he took everything he learned and applied it to Afghan students in Afghanistan, so that they may have the same opportunities he did, especially female students. There is something about staying in your homeland too that is much to be cherished and not taken for granted.

I applied to AHE because I had heard about the program from some of my peers and I really liked the flexibility of the program. Because of the flexibility I feel like the AHE really emulates the equity aspect in DEI and so far, the faculty of AHE has been amazing. Additionally, I had gone to WWU for my undergrad and greatly enjoyed my time there. I figured there was no better place to get that “second piece of paper.”

There are so many different skills I have learned in the program, but what I hope to gain most is a chance to build my own curriculum to possibly teach at the institution I work in. Our institution wants to implement digital equity classes for ESL and immigrant and refugee students, to assist in their college entrance process and I would love to assist with this process especially from a trauma informed lens. Additionally, I enjoy learning leadership skills as that is something that I have historically not had as much confidence in. Lastly, I hope learning about research and research methods will help me if I ever do decide to do a P.h.D (but currently only keeping one degree on my mind at a time).

# Emran Rezai



I am a Bellingham local and I moved here with my family when I was 10 years old from San Diego, CA. My undergraduate degree was also at Western, where I studied Sociology and French. I currently work at Whatcom Community College, in the Registration Office.

The idea of being able to be part of a community that wants to make a lasting impact in higher education appealed to me. The courses that are a part of this curriculum are also varied enough to where you can learn about multiple different topics regarding Adult and Higher education, but are also interconnected in ways where you can build upon what you learned.

I hope to gain valuable experience and insights that can help guide me towards my future goals, while meeting and collaborating with other folks along the way. I hope to also make lasting relationships with instructors, while being challenged in my studies.

# Upcoming Conferences



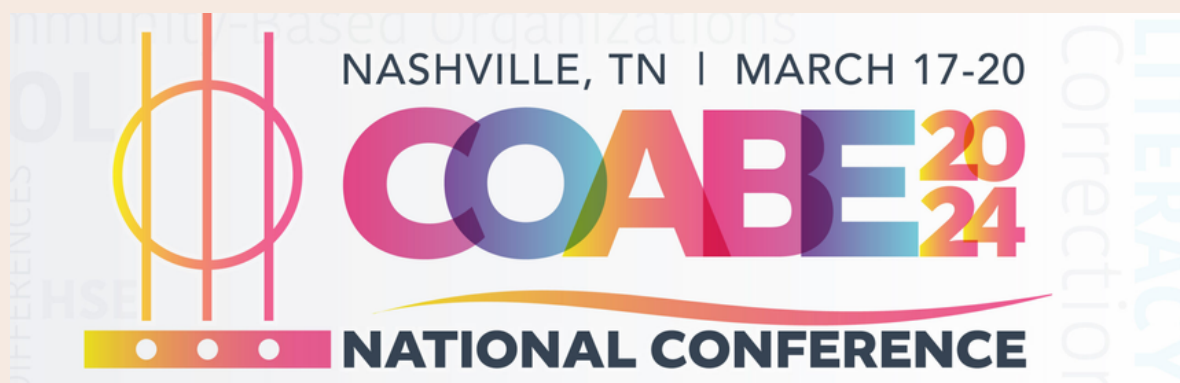
<https://www.nagap.org/2024-summit-graduate-enrollment-management-summit>



<https://conferences.upcea.edu/annual2024/>



<https://conferences.upcea.edu/DTL-SOLAR2024/>



<https://coabe.org/2024-coabe-national-conference/>