**Giovanni Milan, 2014 Human Services Graduate**

**Academic Counselor, Rainier Scholars**

"After graduating from WWU and the Human Services Program in 2014, I worked at WWU for two years. My hope was to learn as much as I could about higher education and supporting underrepresented students. My first year I worked as the Viking Union Information Coordinator, and in my second year I was the Program Coordinator for the Ethnic Student Center. I sought a position that would allow me to take these skills and experiences into more of an advisory role, and soon found the opportunity to do so with a non-profit organization.

Currently, I work for Rainier Scholars, a college access program based in Seattle. We serve high-achieving, low-income, students of color from the Seattle-area. The program has one entry point, in the 4th grade, and we support the students all the way through college graduation. (Learn more at RainierScholars.org) In my position as an Academic Counselor, I manage a caseload of 50 college students who are current freshmen, sophomores, and juniors who attending schools across the country, from right here in Washington to all the way in Vermont. My role is to help guide these young people, most them the first in their family to attend a college or university, empower them, and prepare them for graduation and post-graduation careers. I help them navigate areas such as academic support, social-emotional support, financial literacy and resources, family support, and cultural resources.

From meeting with a student one-on-one over coffee, to visiting them on their college campuses, my goal is to build a positive relationship with them so that I can best support them in whatever way they need."

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**Jarid Corbitt, 2001 Human Services Graduate**

**Assistant Director, Veteran’s Services, Whatcom Community College**

*Article: Resources, Community, and Success in the Veteran’s Center*

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**Stacy Schilter-Pisano, 2001 Human Services Graduate**

**Therapist/Certified Eating Disorders Specialist (with M.A., Psychology)**

*Article: Stacy Schilter Pisano Brings Eating Disorders Treatment to South Sound*

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**Allison Vrbova (formerly Bonner), 2003 Human Services Graduate**

**Communications Consultant/Freelance Writer**

"I've taken a winding path to get to where I am today, and my Human Services degree has helped me both directly and indirectly at every step of the way. After graduating in 03, I spent ten years in the nonprofit housing and homelessness field, first as a case manager, then as a program manager, and finally as a fundraiser and grant writer. The majority of that time was spent working for Plymouth Housing Group, a Seattle-based nonprofit that provides supportive housing for chronically homeless individuals.

Last fall, I made a major career change, mostly because I needed greater flexibility for my family. Half of my time is now spent as a freelance writer and communications consultant, helping businesses and nonprofits tell their stories. The other half of my time is spent as the marketing and PR manager for my husband’s sculpture studio and outdoor sculpture gallery. We just moved back to Bellingham to expand our space!

Although my Human Services credentials are less relevant in my new career (I also have a Master's Degree in Creative Writing) I have discovered that the soft skills I gained in Human Services have been invaluable to me as a writer. I know how to interview people in a way that draws their stories out; I am good at figuring out what motivates people; I have a solid understanding of the systems that people work within. And of course, when it's needed, I still know how to write a great grant."