**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."

---

**Jarid Corbitt, 2001 Human Services Graduate**  
**Assistant Director, Veteran’s Services, Whatcom Community College**

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

---

**Sara Rodgers, 2015 Human Services Graduate**  
**Program Coordinator and Ministry of Health Liaison Officer for Global Public Service Academies**

The journey that I took through the Human Services Program at WWU wasn’t typical, but I wouldn’t have had it any other way. I came to Western with a two-year degree just to complete the major, but only ended up living in Bellingham for a year. A trip to Guatemala between my first and second years to learn Spanish and volunteer at a medical clinic helped me to realize what my true interests were. I was inspired to stay in Guatemala for my final year and finish my degree through the distance learning program, which really made my experience with the program unique. A year after I finished the program, I moved to the UK in order to pursue a master’s degree in Global Health and Development from University College London.

Now, I’m living in Quetzaltenango, Guatemala, where I work as a Program Coordinator and Ministry of Health Liaison Officer for an organization based in the U.S. called Global Public Service Academies. As a program coordinator, I work with high school students who travel to Guatemala, Belize, or West Virginia to gain experience in the healthcare field and help local communities. My position as Ministry of Health Liaison Officer involves working with the Guatemalan Ministry of Health, where I help develop projects and facilitate partnerships within the communities where they work.

There are always times when little gems of knowledge I gained in the HS program come in handy and I know I’ll continue to use these as I move up in my career. I think that the program provides the perfect foundation for so many careers, including one in global health like mine. I’m looking forward to seeing what opportunities come up in the future and how the experience that I gained through the Human Services Program continues to serve me.
Brett Bashaw, Human Services Graduate, Distance Learning, Co-Author, Tin Can Homestead

https://www.dwell.com/article/a-couple-transform-a-vintage-airstream-into-a-scandinavian-inspired-tiny-home-703aee7d

Samantha Troxler, Human Services Graduate, Distance Learning


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

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.”

Renee Partsch, Human Services Graduate, Distance Learning

Photo and article, Kitsap Sun

Photo and article, Sequim Gazette

Photo and article, Thurston Talk

Photo and article, Sequim Gazette