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.”