



Clarifying the Path: Amplifying Student Voices

February 29, 2024 Lunch & Learn

Panelists



Mollie Kuwahara (she/her) is a returning college student and is in the middle of her second year at Tacoma Community College. Mollie has returned to Tacoma Community College to complete her lifelong dream of getting a degree in Chemical Engineering and pursuing a career in sustainable/ 'green' engineering. Mollie Kuwahara has spent the last 6 months as an elected member of Associated Students of Tacoma Community College's Executive Team, filling the role of Vice President of Legislation and Records. Through her appointment into this position Mollie has become passionate about policy at the state and federal level. Specifically, she is passionate about policy that affects students, environment/sustainability, and all Americans that are misrepresented or underrepresented in policy. Mollie's love for policy looks like being an active member of the Washington Student Association (WSA) and Washington Association of Community and Technical Colleges Student Association (WACTCSA.) Mollie would love to marry her affinity for policy and engineering, by focusing on holding industries and companies accountable to sustainability and 'environment first' policies. Mollie balances her school and work life through self-care that looks like going to concerts, playing volleyball and racquetball, camping, and building with LEGO.



Hello my name is **Arleen Magallanes** I am 20 years old, I'm a cheerleader and student at Arizona Western College, this is my first year, and I'm majoring in Administration of Justice. I currently live on campus and I have to say that this is one of the best experiences of my life. I meet a lot of kind people and staff that guide me to achieve my goals. I have learned a lot since I started living by myself far from home. My family is from Hermosillo Sonora, so I don't see them that much, since they live far from here. Arizona Western College has given me one of the best gifts that life could ever give me, AWC has given me the chance to discover what my passion is, and also it gives me the opportunity to finally be myself. Since I was young I have always struggled with my education since I was always moving from cities and for the first time I felt like home. When I was in High School, I had a lot of difficulties to study, because I don't have a dad and my mom cannot cross to the USA, so I didn't have a parent to take care of me. The people that were going to take care of me are my grandparents, they stayed in the USA taking care of me even though they were not US citizens. The school took away from me the right of having an education as a US citizen, I struggled for a year, paying lawyers, going to courts, fighting for my education. After a year of fighting they did not let me study there anymore, so I had to move with my aunt to California to be able to finish high school. I'm so grateful to my family because thanks to them I finished high school at University

High School Charter as a member of the Class of 2021. After this happened I moved back to Mexico to start thinking about my future, then I continued in the modeling industry for about 2 years, after that I decided to continue my education in the US since that's the place that I was born in, and took the decision to apply to Arizona Western College. That's the best decision I ever made. I have people who support me through this new chapter of my life and I'm so proud to say that I'll be graduating in May of 2024.



Arabella Nicdao grew up in the Philippines for 15 years before moving to Oregon in June 2019. She is currently a second-year college student, pursuing an Associate of Arts in Oregon Transfer - Business at Columbia Gorge Community College, where she is a scholar and recipient of five other scholarships she earned during her senior year of high school. Her plan is to major in Business Administration with a focus on Entrepreneurship and Global Studies with an emphasis on Development and Sustainability at the University of Oregon starting next school year. After completing her studies, she intends to travel to different countries, identify their needs, and provide solutions. Additionally, she aspires to participate in marathons. Outside of academics, Arabella enjoys reading self-help books, playing badminton, and role-playing games.



I'm **Josaphine Saccio-Devine** and I am serving as a legislative intern at SBCTC this legislative session. I'm a high school senior at Kelso High-School getting my AA through the Running Start program at Lower Columbia College and I am the Student Activities Director for The Associated Students of LCC, where I plan campus wide events to create a more welcoming and interactive environment for both students and staff. After completing my associate degree, I plan to pursue a Bachelor of Science in environmental sciences so I can begin working against environmental injustice. I'm passionate about sustainability, equity, and justice in education. Outside of my studies I enjoy reading and crocheting.
