



Class of 2026

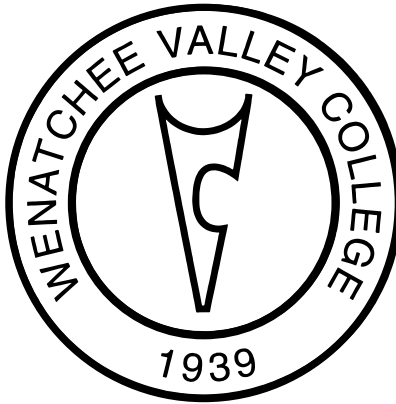
86TH ANNUAL COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY
WENATCHEE VALLEY COLLEGE

86TH ANNUAL COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

WENATCHEE VALLEY COLLEGE

Thursday, June 18, 2026 | 7 PM
Town Toyota Center | Wenatchee, WA





The Official Seal of Wenatchee Valley College

The seal showcases Wenatchee Valley College's established year, 1939. A jousting shield in the center of the emblem symbolizes the WVC Knights.

El sello oficial de Wenatchee Valley College

El sello muestra el año en el que se fundó Wenatchee Valley College, 1939. Un escudo de combate en el centro del emblema simboliza a los WVC Knights (los Caballeros de WVC).



COMMENCEMENT PROGRAM

June 18, 2026

Processional	Please Stand
Welcome	Dr. Diana Garza <i>WVC Vice President of Student Affairs</i>
National Anthem	Jaden Matson <i>WVC Student</i>
Land and Labor Acknowledgment	Dr. Diana Garza
Introductions	Dr. Faimous Harrison <i>WVC President</i>
President's Medal	Dr. Faimous Harrison
Commencement Address	Derek Sheffield <i>WVC English faculty</i>
2025-26 Class Response	Diana Morales-Cruz <i>2025-26 ASWVC Senate President</i>
Outstanding Graduates	Dr. Tod Treat <i>Vice President of Instruction</i>
Presentation of the Class of 2026	Dr. Tod Treat
Congratulations and Bestowing of Degrees	WVC Board of Trustees
Recessional	

Master of Ceremonies: Dr. Diana Garza
Readers: Edwardo Alcantar and Levi Vega

Music Performance: Mariachi Imperial Real
Interpreters: Dr. María I. Morales-Sánchez, Ella Devon,
and Bailee McLeod

TWO CAMPUSES, ONE MISSION

Wenatchee Valley College enriches North Central Washington and delivers relevant, innovative, and experiential educational opportunities for thriving and healthy communities.

PROGRAMA DE LA CEREMONIA DE GRADUACIÓN

18 de junio de 2026

Procesión de entrada	De pie, por favor
Bienvenida	Dra. Diana Garza <i>Vicepresidenta de Asuntos Estudiantiles de WVC</i>
Himno Nacional	Jaden Matson <i>Estudiante de WVC</i>
Reconocimiento de tierras y contribuciones laborales	Dra. Diana Garza
Presentaciones	Dr. Faimous Harrison <i>Presidente de WVC</i>
Medalla del Presidente	Dr. Faimous Harrison
Discurso de graduación	Derek Sheffield <i>Profesor de inglés de WVC</i>
Respuesta de la Clase de 2026	Diana Morales-Cruz <i>Presidenta del Senado de ASWVC 2025-2026</i>
Graduados destacados	Dr. Tod Treat <i>Vicepresidente de Instrucción</i>
Presentación de la Clase de 2026	Dr. Tod Treat
Felicitaciones y otorgamiento de títulos	Junta Directiva de WVC
Procesión de salida	

Maestra de ceremonia: Dra. Diana Garza

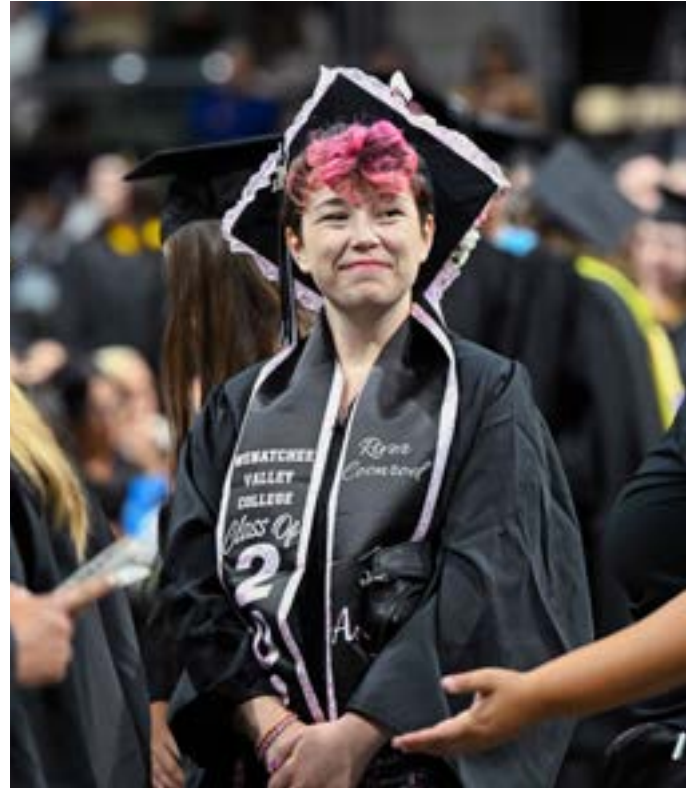
Oradores: Eduardo Alcantar y Levi Vega

Presentación musical: Mariachi Imperial Real

Intérpretes: Dra. María I. Morales-Sánchez,
Ella Devon, y Bailee McLeod

DOS CAMPUS, UNA MISIÓN

Wenatchee Valley College enriquece el norte central de Washington y brinda oportunidades educativas relevantes, innovadoras y experienciales para comunidades prósperas y saludables.



WVC DEGREES AND ABBREVIATIONS/WVC TÍTULOS Y ABREVIACIONES

Bachelor of Applied Science in Engineering Technology / Licenciatura en Ciencias Aplicadas en Tecnología de Ingeniería

BAS-Engineering Technology / BAS-Tecnología de Ingeniería

Bachelor of Applied Science in Teaching / Licenciatura en Ciencias Aplicadas en Docencia

BAS-Teaching / BAS-Docencia

Bachelor of Science-Nursing / Licenciatura en Ciencia-Enfermería

RN to BSN / RN a BSN

Bachelor of Science-Nursing / Licenciatura en Ciencia-Enfermería

LPN to BSN / LPN a BSN

Associate in Arts Direct Transfer Agreement / Título de Asociado de transferencia en Artes

AA-DTA

Associate of Business-Direct Transfer Agreement / Título de Asociado de transferencia en Negocios

Business DTA

Associate in Nursing / Título de Asociado en Enfermería

Associate of Science-Transfer / Título de Asociado de transferencia en Ciencias

AS-T

Associate in Applied Science-Transfer / Título de Asociado de transferencia en Ciencias Aplicadas

AAS-T

Music Direct Transfer Agreement / Título de transferencia en Música

Music DTA

Associate of Applied Science / Título de Asociado en Ciencias Técnicas

AAS

Associate of General Studies / Título de Asociado en Estudios Generales

AGS

BACHELOR'S DEGREES/LICENCIATURAS



BACHELOR'S DEGREES/LICENCIATURAS 2025-2026

Kami Aldrich
Wenatchee
BSN

Kourtney Bender
Tacoma
Honors Student
BSN

Amalia Beyer
Arlington
Honors Student
BSN

Yair Cervantes-Barrera
Grandview
BAS-Engineering Technology

Kelli Nichole Creekmore
Wenatchee
BSN

Noemi Dominguez Vergara
Sunnyside
Honors Student
BSN

Felipe Haro Acosta
Othello
Honors Student
BAS-Engineering Technology

Liz Harris
Graham
Honors Student
BSN

Eyerusalem Kammer
Wenatchee
Honors Student
BSN

Alexandrea Liebrecht
Reardan
Honors Student
BSN

Jakeem Manjares
BAS-Engineering Technology

Karen May
Honors Student
BSN

Brianna Michel
Ft. Lauderdale, Flor.
Honors Student
BSN

Paulla Minuto
Riverside
BSN

Kierra Muhammad
Gunnison, Miss.
Honors Student
BSN

Malachi Sanchez
Manson
BAS-Engineering Technology

Esther Thiongo
Renton
Honors Student
BSN

Leeza Thomas
East Wenatchee
BSN

Sonia Torres
Roytal City
Honors Student
BSN

Angel Valencia
Quincy
BSN

Aracely Verduzco
Sunnyside
Honors Student
BSN

ASSOCIATE DEGREES/TÍTULOS DE ASOCIADO



Raja Abou Ammo

East Wenatchee
AA-DTA

Daisy Adame Perez

East Wenatchee
Honors Student
AAS-T, Early Childhood Education

Itzel Aguilar

Honors Student
AA-DTA

Juliane Aguilar

Honors Student
AA-DTA

Nadia Aguilar

Wenatchee
AA-DTA

Lachlyn Allen-Tate

Carlton
AA-DTA

Camilo Alonso

Entiat
AA-DTA

Oscar Amador Ortega

Brewster
Honors Student
AAS-T, Computer Technology-Network Administration

Alexia Amante

Wenatchee
AA-DTA

Lynina Amavisca

Wenatchee
Honors Student
Associate in Nursing

Eduardo Analla

Honors Student
AA-DTA

Starla Anderson

Honors Student
AA-DTA

Elizabeth Andrade

AA-DTA

Kayden Andre-Van Lith

Honors Student
AA-DTA

Alejandro Anguiano

Wenatchee
Honors Student
AA-DTA

Daniela Aranda

East Wenatchee
AS-T

Adamaris Arellano Laguna

Mattawa
AAS, Medical Laboratory Technology

Jovany Arredondo

Warden
AA-DTA

Marco Arredondo

Quincy
AA-DTA

Ernesto Arreguin Mendoza

Honors Student
AA-DTA

Aubrey Atkinson

AA-DTA

Rafael Avina

Honors Student
AA-DTA

Arely Avina-Melendrez

Wenatchee
AA-DTA

Viviana Bailey

Cashmere
Honors Student
AA-DTA

Vianney Bailon

Honors Student
AS-T

Aiyana Ball

Stehekin
Associate in Nursing

Ava Ballew

Honors Student
AA-DTA

J. Armando Baltazar

East Wenatchee
Honors Student
Business DTA

Maria Barajas De Luna

Bridgeport
Honors Student
AAS-T, Early Childhood
Education

Alondra Barajas Espinoza

Wenatchee
AA-DTA

Ailin Barboza Lopez

Wenatchee
Honors Student
AA-DTA

Elise Barger

Wenatchee
AA-DTA

Katherine Barragan-Ayala

Entiat
Honors Student
Associate in Nursing

Crystal Barragan-

Martinez
Wenatchee
Business DTA

Emmalia Barragan-Nelsen

AA-DTA

Joshua Barraza

Wenatchee
AA-DTA

Diana Barrera

Brewster
Honors Student
AA-DTA

Ian Battermann

AA-DTA

Kailey Baxter

Tacoma
AA-DTA

Emma Beckstead

Honors Student
AA-DTA

Wesley Bedford

Granada Hills, Calif.
Honors Student
Associate in Nursing

Emma Bell

AA-DTA

Mollie Bell

AA-DTA

Robert George Kaya Belt

Wenatchee
AS-T

Cole Benjamin

Mill Creek
AA-DTA

Lorie Benitez

AA-DTA

Olivia Benski

Boise, Idaho
Honors Student
AAS-T, Medical Laboratory
Technology

Aaron Bergren

East Wenatchee
Honors Student
AAS-T, Computer Technolo-
gy-Network Administration

Joel Bernal

East Wenatchee
AA-DTA

Kassandra Bernal-Ponce

Wenatchee
AA-DTA

Klara Berschauer

Honors Student
AA-DTA

Michael Dean Best

East Wenatchee
AAS, Graphic Design

Peyton Bischoff

Colbert
AA-DTA

Lauren Bixby

Honors Student
AA-DTA

Lauren Black

AA-DTA

Justina Blaine

East Wenatchee
AA-DTA

Jessica Blanco

East Wenatchee
Honors Student
AAS-T, Criminal Justice

Rayén Blue

Leavenworth
AA-DTA

Tayton Bogdan

Wenatchee
AS-T

Anthony Bohorfoush

Honors Student
AAS-T, Radiologic Technology

Logan Bolyard

AA-DTA

Cole Borden

Waterville
Honors Student
AA-DTA

Virgil Bozarth

Honors Student
AA-DTA

Ella Bradshaw

Honors Student
AA-DTA

Frank Brandt

AA-DTA

Caleb Breidert

Wenatchee
Honors Student
AA-DTA

Kikkan Brine

Honors Student
AA-DTA

Noah Brossoit

East Wenatchee
Honors Student
AA-DTA

McKale Brown

Wenatchee
AA-DTA

Peyton Brown

Cashmere
Honors Student
Associate in Nursing

Zoe Brown

Cashmere
AA-DTA

Cady Browne

Asotin
Honors Student
AAS-T, Graphic Design

Richard Bryant

Wenatchee
Honors Student
AAS-T, Addiction Studies

Karen Buenrostro

AA-DTA

Karyna Bukovtsova

Odesa, Ukraine
Honors Student, Outstanding
Graduate
AAS-T, Business Computer
Technology

Solomiia Bukovtsova

Honors Student
AA-DTA, Business DTA

Eva Bull

Wenatchee
AA-DTA

Addyson Burger

AA-DTA

Marley Burgess-Duquette

Priest River, Idaho
Honors Student, President's
Medal Nominee
AA-DTA

Kaitlyn Burnell

Honors Student
AA-DTA

Jaelynn Burns

Honors Student
AA-DTA

Kieran Cabral

Petersburg, Alaska
Honors Student
AA-DTA

Mia Cabrera

East Wenatchee
AA-DTA

Juan Diego Cacho Arroyo

Cashmere
AAS-T, Automotive Technology

Joshua Cacho Navarrete

Honors Student
AA-DTA

Briana Camacho

Brewster
AA-DTA

Elektra Camacho

Fresno, Calif.
Business DTA

Ariana Camacho-Luna

Honors Student
AA-DTA

Alondra Camarillo Aviles

AA-DTA

Ahren Campbell

Cashmere
AA-DTA

Asher Campbell

Honors Student
Business DTA

Graham Campbell

Leavenworth
Honors Student
AA-DTA

Paloma Canela Carvajal

Honors Student
AA-DTA

Julio Capi

East Wenatchee
AS-T

Matthew Allen Card

East Wenatchee
AAS, Environmental Systems &
Refrigeration Technology

Alexa Cardenas

Honors Student
AA-DTA

Yareli Cardenas Gomez

Chelan
AA-DTA

**Salvador Cardenas-
Martinez**

Brewster
Honors Student
AA-DTA

**Leah Guadalupe Carranza
Ramirez**

Cashmere
Honors Student
AA-DTA

Caitlin Carson

Wenatchee
AA-DTA

Zachary Cartozian

Wenatchee
Honors Student
Business DTA

Nathalie Casas Duran

Wenatchee
AA-DTA

Sonia Casillas Villasenor

East Wenatchee
Associate in Nursing

Marvey Casique

Wenatchee
AA-DTA

Connor Cass

Honors Student
AA-DTA

Wendy Castaneda

Honors Student
AA-DTA

Daniel Castilla-Buenabad

Brewster
Honors Student
AA-DTA

Jayleen Castillo

Orondo
AA-DTA

Yahir Castro

Yakima
Business DTA

Russell Cate

AA-DTA

Oliver Cawdery

East Wenatchee
AA-DTA

Lucia Ceja

Wenatchee
AA-DTA

Sydney Cemensky

Wenatchee
AA-DTA

Marco Cendejas

Wenatchee
AA-DTA

Gloria Cendejas-Garibay

East Wenatchee
AA-DTA

Maria Ceresa

Honors Student
AA-DTA

Rachelle Cervantes

Wenatchee
AA-DTA

Yair Cervantes

Grandview
AAS, Environmental Systems &
Refrigeration Technology

McKenna Chadderton

Honors Student
Associate in Nursing

Tor Chaffee

Grand Coulee
AA-DTA

Jose Chavez

Warden
Honors Student
AA-DTA

Daniela Cibrian

East Wenatchee
AA-DTA

Cristian Cisneros

AA-DTA

Melinda Clark

Oroville
Honors Student
AA-DTA

Jacqueline Cole

Wenatchee
Honors Student
Associate in Nursing

Teagan Collier

Honors Student
AA-DTA

Emma Collins

Honors Student
AA-DTA

Riley Collins

Wenatchee
AA-DTA

Bella Collyer

Wenatchee
Honors Student
AA-DTA

Ruben Contreras-Barbosa

East Wenatchee
Honors Student
AA-DTA

Sierra Cook

AS-T

Luke Corbin

Honors Student
AA-DTA

Dylan Cornea

Cashmere
Honors Student
AA-DTA

Vanessa Cornelio

Cashmere
Honors Student
AA-DTA

Anahi Corona

Centralia
AA-DTA

Diana Corral-Torres

Wenatchee
AA-DTA

Evelyn Cortes Solorio

Wenatchee
Honors Student
Associate in Nursing

Jacob Cournyer

Morton
AA-DTA

Emily Courtade

Honors Student
AA-DTA

Avry Couture

Moses Lake
Honors Student
AAS-T, Medical Laboratory
Technology

Jocelyn Covarrubias

Bridgeport
AA-DTA

Kaytlynn Craig

East Wenatchee
AA-DTA

Murrya Cromwell

Honors Student
AA-DTA

Dugan Crowell

Wenatchee
AAS, Machining

Joe Cruz

Moses Lake
AA-DTA

Daisy Cruz-Caballero

East Wenatchee
Honors Student
AA-DTA

Rosa Cruz Garcia

Bridgeport
Honors Student
Associate in Nursing

**Christian Cuevas
Peregrino**

East Wenatchee
AAS-T, Sustainable Agriculture-Horticulture & Tree Fruit Production

Austin Darlington

East Wenatchee
AAS-T, Automotive Technology

Stephanie Marie

Daugherty
Wenatchee
AAS-Accounting

Jon Davies

Orondo
AA-DTA

Esther Davila

AA-DTA

Aven Davis

AA-DTA

Allisson De La Cruz

Honors Student
AA-DTA

Montserrat De La Cruz

Wenatchee
Honors Student
Associate in Nursing

Jaedyn Demott

East Wenatchee
Honors Student
AS-T

Kaden Devereaux

Wenatchee
Honors Student
AA-DTA

Liam Donohue

East Wenatchee
Honors Student
AS-T

Samuel Dotson

Show Low, Ariz.
AAS, Fire Science

Ethan Drakes

Wenatchee
AA-DTA

Stephanie Duarte-

Barragan
Monitor
AA-DTA

Kayden Duclos

Honors Student
AA-DTA

Colton Duke

Cashmere
AAS, Environmental Systems & Refrigeration Technology

Alexander Duncan

Rock Island
Business DTA

Callie Duncan

East Wenatchee
AA-DTA

Adan Duran

Wenatchee
AAS-T, Environmental Systems & Refrigeration Technology

Julia Dye

Honors Student
AA-DTA

Sydney Eakle

East Wenatchee
AA-DTA

Molly Elder

Brunswick, Maine
Honors Student
Associate in Nursing

Enas Elmobdy

Olympia
AAS-T, Medical Laboratory Technology

Layla Emneina

Honors Student
Business DTA

Reymundo Enciso

Cardenas
Toppenish
AAS, Environmental Systems & Refrigeration Technology

Quinn Erickson

Honors Student
AA-DTA

Omar Escobedo

Brewster
AA-DTA

Ashlynn Espana

Chelan
AA-DTA

Sergio Esparza

AA-DTA

Jovanni Espino-Macedo

Bridgeport
AA-DTA

Marina Esquivel Garibay

Wenatchee
Honors Student
AA-DTA

Adayeny Esquivel Rangel

Wenatchee
AAS-T, Early Childhood Education

Sarah Estes

East Wenatchee
Honors Student
AA-DTA

Izabel Evans

St. Ignatius, Mont.
Honors Student
AA-DTA

Vincent Evans

Wenatchee
Honors Student
AS-T

Amalia Farias

Moses Lake
Honors Student
AAS-T, Medical Laboratory Technology

Joshua Felipe Gomez

Wenatchee
AA-DTA

Avery Fennelly

Cashmere
AA-DTA

Elana Fernandez

Wenatchee
Honors Student
AAS, Accounting

Leilani Fernandez-Avila

Wenatchee
Honors Student
AA-DTA

Annabelle Flick

Cashmere
Honors Student
AA-DTA

Mitzi Flores Martinez

Brewster
AA-DTA

Francisco Flores-

Quintero
East Wenatchee
AA-DTA

Jaquelyn Flores-Soto

AAS-T, Accounting

Julianna Floyd

Twisp
AA-DTA

Victoria Fonseca

Leavenworth
AA-DTA

Juan Fonseca-Lara

Leavenworth
AA-DTA

Cash Fowler

Wenatchee
Honors Student, President's Medal Nominee
AS-T

Lilee Franco

Brawley, Calif.
Honors Student
Associate in Nursing

Cordelia Freeland

Leavenworth
AA-DTA

Jayden Froelich

AA-DTA

Coley Fudge

Wenatchee
Honors Student
AAS-T, Natural Resources

Fisher Gadeberg

Omak
AA-DTA

Frida Gallegos-Maravilla

Wenatchee
AS-T

Josseline Galvan

Chelan
Honors Student
AA-DTA

Alexa Galvan-Vargas

Orondo
AA-DTA

Camilla Gamble Ausmus

Kennewick
Honors Student
AA-DTA

Jasmine Garcia

Mansfield
Honors Student
AA-DTA

Jimena Garcia

Mansfield
AA-DTA

Katelyn Garcia

Wenatchee
Honors Student
AA-DTA

Lindsey Garcia

Bridgeport
AA-DTA

Jennifer Garcia-Corrales

Brewster
AAS-T, Early Childhood
Education

Andrea Garcia Garnica

Wenatchee
Honors Student
Associate in Nursing

Alexa Garcia Hernandez

Mansfield
AA-DTA

Ruth Garcia Leal

AA-DTA

Melissa Garcia Medel

Bridgeport
AAS-T, Sustainable & Organic
Agriculture

Yazmin Garcia-Medel

Brewster
Honors Student
AA-DTA

Karsyn Garcia-Miller

Wenatchee
Honors Student
AA-DTA

Elisa Garcia-Orozco

Bridgeport
AA-DTA

Lorenzo Garcia-Perez

Brewster
AA-DTA

Diana Garcia-Villanueva

Bridgeport
AA-DTA

Jose Garibay Bravo

East Wenatchee
AAS-T, Sustainable Agriculture-Horticulture & Tree Fruit
Production

Jose Garibay Garcia

Wenatchee
Honors Student
AA-DTA

Raven Garza

Federal Way
AA-DTA

Juarizmi Gastelum

Wenatchee
AA-DTA

Rhiannon Gavin

Wenatchee
AA-DTA

Iris Giles

Wenatchee
*Honors Student, Outstanding
Graduate*
AAS-T, Computer Technology-
Network Administration

Harman Gill

Honors Student
AS-T

Alexis Gillespie

Ellensburg
Honors Student
AAS-T, Natural Resources

Corban Givens

Honors Student
AA-DTA

Nolan Godfrey

Honors Student
AA-DTA

Liliana Godinez-Martinez

Bridgeport
AA-DTA

Anais Gomez-Guerrero

Honors Student
AA-DTA

Lindsay Gonzales

Ephrata
Honors Student
Associate in Nursing

Danely Gonzales Lara

Wenatchee
Honors Student
AS-T

Anahi Gonzalez

East Wenatchee
Honors Student
AA-DTA

Elvira Gonzalez

Wenatchee
AA-DTA

Janely Gonzalez

Associate in Nursing

Joanna Gonzalez

East Wenatchee
AA-DTA

Stephanie Gonzalez

Othello
Honors Student
AA-DTA

Viviana Gonzalez

Wenatchee
Honors Student
AA-DTA

Celia Gonzalez-Acevedo

Wenatchee
Honors Student
AA-DTA

Nahum Gonzalez

Acevedo
Wenatchee
AA-DTA

Evelyn Gonzalez-Garcia

Honors Student
AA-DTA

Laurene Gonzalez

Guzman
Bridgeport
Honors Student
AA-DTA

Jonathan Gonzalez Mota

AS-T

Nataly Gonzalez Vidal

East Wenatchee
AA-DTA

Carl Gooch

Wenatchee
AAS-T, Radiologic Technology

Maggie Gosvener

Honors Student
AA-DTA

Manuel Granados

Rock Island
AA-DTA & Business DTA

Clayton Grant

Leavenworth
Honors Student
AAS-T, Machining

Catherine Graybill

Peshastin
Honors Student
AAS-T, Radiologic Technology

Ann Green

Brinnon
AAS-T, Medical Laboratory
Technology

Shelby Greenhalgh

Honors Student
AA-DTA

Winter Gross

Port Angeles
Honors Student
AAS-T, Medical Laboratory
Technology

Hope Guerra

East Wenatchee
Honors Student
Associate in Nursing

Avril Guerrero

Honors Student
Business DTA

Giselle Guerrero

East Wenatchee
AA-DTA

Lillyanna Guerrero

Entiat
AA-DTA

Rubi Guerrero

Honors Student
AA-DTA

America Guerrero-Macias

President's Medal Nominee
AA-DTA

Alexis Gurnard

Wenatchee
Associate in Nursing

Alma Guzman

Wenatchee
Honors Student
AA-DTA

Isac Guzman

Dryden
AAS-T, Environmental Systems
& Refrigeration Technology

Scarlett Ha

AA-DTA

Montana Ham

North Bend
Honors Student
AS-T

Parker Hambelton

AA-DTA

Jackson Hamel*Honors Student*

AA-DTA

Jevonti Haney-**Williamson**

Tonasket

Honors Student

AAS, Radiologic Technology

Lindsay Hanks*Honors Student, President's**Medal Nominee*

AAS-T, Industrial Electronics

Trae Harmon

Wenatchee

Honors Student

AS-T

Felipe Haro

Othello

*Honors Student*AAS, Environmental Systems &
Refrigeration Technology**Henri Theo Hartung**

Neversdorf, Germany

Honors Student

AA-DTA

Luke Hawkins

AS-T

Jonathan Heideman

Malaga

AA-DTA

Margaret Heikkenen

East Wenatchee

Associate in Nursing

Shanna Helms

Wenatchee

Honors Student

AA-DTA

Daniel Henley

Wenatchee

AGS

Tristan Henneigh*Honors Student*

AA-DTA

Julia Henry

Wenatchee

AAS-T, Sustainable & Organic
Agriculture-Tree Fruit &
Horticulture**Loren Hensley**

East Wenatchee

AA-DTA

Molly Hensley

Cashmere

Business DTA

Kimberly Hernandez

Brewster

AA-DTA

Yahir Hernandez

East Wenatchee

Honors Student

AA-DTA

Alexis Hernandez Macias

Largo

AAS, Environmental Systems &
Refrigeration Technology**Jonathan****Hernandez-Mendoza**

AA-DTA

Yahir Hernandez-**Mendoza**

East Wenatchee

Honors Student

AA-DTA

Kelly Hernandez-Ramos

AA-DTA

Luis Hernandez Rivera

Houston, Texas

AA-DTA

Allison Herrin

East Wenatchee

Associate in Nursing

Wesley Hester

Wenatchee

AA-DTA

Sophia Hevener

El Centro, Calif.

AA-DTA

Olivia Hewitt

AA-DTA

Felicia Hiironen

Monroe

Honors Student

AAS-T, Addiction Studies

Caleb Himple

East Wenatchee

AA-DTA

Antoine Hines

Las Vegas, Nev.

AA-DTA

Venus Hinojos

El Paso, Texas

AS-T

Jacob Holladay

Cashmere

Honors Student

AA-DTA

Amanda Holtz*Honors Student*

AA-DTA

Hailey Hopkins

East Wenatchee

*Honors Student, All-Washington**Academic Team*

AS-T

Annalise Horne

Wenatchee

AAS-T, Early Childhood

Education

Kimberly Huerta

AA-DTA

Henry Hughes

Ridgefield

Business DTA

Tyrell Humborg

Brewster

AAS, Environmental Systems &
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AS-T

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Seth Peterson

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Noah Poston

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Reagan Puryear

Chelan
Honors Student
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Cashmere
AAS-T, Radiologic Technology

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Yahir Ramirez

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East Wenatchee
Basic HVACR & Controls,
Commercial Industrial HVACR
& DDC

Jayleen Castillo

Certified Nursing Assistant

Yair Cervantes-Barrera
Grandview
Commercial/Industrial HVACR
& DDC, Basic HVACR &
Controls

**Claire Countryman-
Logstrom**
Wenatchee
Honors Student
Medical Assistant

Emily Courtade
Honors Student
CNA

Dugan Crowell
Wenatchee
Machining, Drafting Technology

Esperanza Cruz
Ephrata
Honors Student
Early Childhood Education-
Infant-Toddler Care

Natasha Darrow
Oroville
Early Childhood Education-
General

**Stephanie Marie
Daugherty**
Wenatchee
Business Computer Technology
Certificate of Accomplishment

Veronica Delgado
Entiat
Honors Student
Early Childhood Education-
Initial

Adan Duran
Wenatchee
Basic HVACR & Controls,
Commercial Industrial HVACR
& DDC

Karen Duren
Honors Student
Drafting Technology

Naum Elena Flores
Huajuapán de León, Oaxaca,
Mexico
Honors Student
Hispanic Orchard Employee
Education Program

**Reymundo Enciso
Cardenas**
Toppenish
Commercial/Industrial HVACR
& DDC

Adayeny Esquivel Rangel
Wenatchee
Early Childhood Education-
Home Visiting & Family
Engagement

Laura Esquivel Tinoco
East Wenatchee
Honors Student
Early Childhood Education-
Home Visiting & Family
Engagement, Initial

Connor Ford
Oroville
Honors Student
Welding & Fabrication

Doris Francisco Sanchez
Bridgeport
Honors Student
Early Childhood Education-
Initial, General, Administration

Olga Garcia Marquez
East Wenatchee
Honors Student
Early Childhood Education-
Initial, Infant-Toddler Care

Alexa Gilbert
Wenatchee
Honors Student
Early Childhood Education-
General, Infant-Toddler Care,
Initial

Iris Giles
Wenatchee
Honors Student
Computer Technician

Yazmin Gonzalez
Wenatchee
Early Childhood Education
State Short Certificate

Angela Gonzalez-Calixto
Orondo
Early Childhood Education-
Infant-Toddler Care, State Short
Certificate

Maria Gonzalez Padilla
Brewster
Early Childhood Education-
State Short Certificate

Eva Gonzalez Zambrano
Wenatchee
Honors Student
Early Childhood Education-
Infant-Toddler Care, Home
Visiting & Family Engagement

Jose Guerrero
East Wenatchee
Automotive Technician

Heidi Guillen
East Wenatchee
Honors Student
Early Childhood Education-
Home Visiting & Family
Engagement

Maria Guillen
Moses Lake
Honors Student
Early Childhood Education
Family Child Care

Liliana Gutierrez Esquivel
Honors Student
Early Childhood Education-
Home Visiting & Family
Engagement, State Short
Certificate

Liliana Guzman
Honors Student
Early Childhood Education-
General, Initial

Raquel Guzman Retano
Wenatchee
Honors Student
Early Childhood Education-
Initial, General, Family Child
Care

Jorge Hernandez
Colima, Mexico
Hispanic Orchard Employee
Education Program

Guadalupe Laura Herrera
Quincy
Honors Student
Early Childhood Education-
Initial, General, Infant-Toddler
Care

Alejandro Hilterbrand
Early Childhood Education-
Initial

Annalise Horne
Wenatchee
Early Childhood Education-
General

Luis Ibarra
Quincy
Early Childhood Education-
General

Geff Intelus
Honors Student
Machining

Ana Isguerra Alvarado
Early Childhood Education-
State Short Certificate

Kevin Isidro
Wenatchee
Electronics Technician

Andre Jackson
Las Vegas, Nev.
Drafting Technology

Arcelia Jaime Diodoro
Pasco
Viticulture Sustainability

Noah Johnson
Cashmere
Commercial/Industrial HVACR
& DDC

River Johnson
Wenatchee
Computer Technician

Zoey Jourdan
CNA

Celeste Kehoe
Coulee Dam
Honors Student
Early Childhood Education-
Infant-Toddler Care

Michelle Kennedy
East Wenatchee
Honors Student
Early Childhood Education-
Initial

Alexander Koch
Wenatchee
Basic HVACR & Controls,
Commercial/Industrial HVACR
& DDC

Lukas Arico Korfiatis
Wenatchee
Welding & Fabrication
Certificate

Iryna Kovalenko
East Wenatchee
Medical Assistant

Rivers Lasher

Honors Student
CNA

Alder Logan

Orofino
Honors Student
Computer Technician

Ivette Lopez

Quincy
Honors Student
Early Childhood Education
State Short Certificate

Lucia Lopez

Quincy
Early Childhood Education-
State Short Certificate

Saray Lopez

Quincy
Honors Student
Early Childhood Education-
Home Visiting & Family
Engagement, Infant-Toddler
Care, General

Evelinda Martinez

Wenatchee
Honors Student
Early Childhood Education-
Initial

Daniella Mason

Kingston, Jamaica
Medical Assistant

Jannett Mata

Orondo
Honors Student
Early Childhood Education-
State Short Certificate, Home
Visiting & Family Engagement

Porsha McCourt

Ogden, Utah
Early Childhood Education-
Initial

Catherine Mejia Guerrero

Honors Student
Early Childhood Education-
Administration

Cecilia Melendrez

East Wenatchee
Honors Student
Early Childhood Education-
General, Infant-Toddler Care,
Home Visiting & Family
Engagement

Mayra Melendrez

Wenatchee
Honors Student
Early Childhood Education-
Infant-Toddler Care, General

Dayanna Mendoza

Monitor
Medical Assistant

Jaime Mendoza

East Wenatchee
Honors Student
Automotive Technician

Timothy Mineard

Yakima
Honors Student
Computer Technician

Mark Mitrakul

Leavenworth
Honors Student
Computer Technician

Veronica Mora Sanchez

Wenatchee
Honors Student
Early Childhood Educa-
tion-State Short Certificate

Yara Mora

Wenatchee
Honors Student
Early Childhood Education-
State Short Certificate

Crisantos Morales

Alarcon
Wenatchee
Honors Student
Automotive Technician

Jorge Moreno Avilez

Wenatchee
Honors Student
Computer Technician

Ivette Moreno-Orozco

Bridgeport
Early Childhood Education-
State Short Certificate, Infant-
Toddler Care

Maricela Munoz

Quincy
Honors Student
Early Childhood Education-
Initial

Samuel Najera-Nava

Wenatchee
Automotive Technician

Liliana Narvaez

Manson
Honors Student
Medical Assistant

Jasmine Nelson

Leavenworth
Honors Student
Early Childhood Education-
Infant-Toddler Care, General,
Initial, State Short Certificate

Heather Nieto Martinez

Huajuapán de León, Oaxaca,
Mexico
Business Computer Technology-
Administrative Assistant,
Certificate of Accomplishment

Jeri Olsen

Grand Coulee
Medical Assistant

Veronica Ontiveros

Salgado
Wenatchee
Honors Student
Early Childhood Education-
Infant-Toddler Care

Selena Oropeza-Bazan

Leavenworth
Early Childhood Education-
Initial

Rosa Palacio

Bridgeport
Honors Student
Early Childhood Education-
State Short Certificate

Sary Pelayo Martinez

Moses Lake
Early Childhood Education-
Initial, General

Yahaida Perez

Bridgeport
Early Childhood Education-
Initial

Berenice Perez Gomez

Wenatchee
Early Childhood Education-
General

Serria Perryman

Early Childhood Education-
Initial, General

Shelly Peterson

Honors Student
Early Childhood Education-
General

Clayton Phipps

Leavenworth
Honors Student
Machining

Maria Pina

Entiat
Early Childhood Education-
Home Visiting & Family
Engagement

Denise Ramirez

Wenatchee
Honors Student
Early Childhood Education-
Initial

Zerimar Ramirez

Wenatchee
Honors Student
Welding & Fabrication

Remedio Ramirez Juarez

Quincy
Early Childhood Education-
Infant-Toddler Care

Brenda Ramos Ochoa

Wenatchee
Honors Student
Early Childhood Education-
Infant-Toddler Care, Home
Visiting & Family Engagement

Iris Rodriguez

Wenatchee
Medical Assistant

Melissa Rodriguez de Leon

Wenatchee
Honors Student
Early Childhood Education-
Initial

Patricia Rodriguez Bravo

East Wenatchee
Honors Student
Early Childhood Education-
Initial

Arney Rodriguez Rodriguez

Viticulture Sustainability

Alonzo Rojas

Cashmere
Commercial/Industrial HVACR
& DDC, Basic HVACR &
Controls

Aurora Rosales Vera

Wenatchee
Early Childhood Education-
Home Visiting & Family
Engagement

Jaqueline Ruiz Magana

Brewster
Honors Student
Early Childhood Education-
State Short Certificate

Sindy Sagarnaga

Wenatchee
Early Childhood Education-
Infant-Toddler Care

Victor Sanchez Mayorga

Wenatchee
Early Childhood Education-
Initial

Julianna Sandoval-Flores

Quincy
Honors Student
Early Childhood Education-
Initial

Belen Santana

Wenatchee
Honors Student
Early Childhood Education-
Initial, General

Nate Sherrell

Wenatchee
Commercial/Industrial HVACR
& DDC

Jennifer Sherwood

Riverside
Honors Student
American Sign Language

Karen Silva Navarro

Wenatchee
Honors Student
Early Childhood Education-
Home Visiting & Family
Engagement, General, Infant-
Toddler Care

Brianna Sturtz

Wenatchee
Early Childhood Education-
Initial, General

Bianca Tapia Vizcaino

Leavenworth
Early Childhood Education-
Initial

Fabiola Torres

Cashmere
Early Childhood Education-
General, State Short Certificate,
Initial

Martha Torres

George
Honors Student
Early Childhood Education-
Home Visiting & Family
Engagement

Ariel Torres-Penilla

Peshastin
Basic HVACR & Controls

Brenda Trujillo

Quincy
Honors Student
Early Childhood Education-
General

Monica Valdovinos

Medina
Wenatchee
Early Childhood Education-
Initial

Yamilex Valdovinos

Honors Student
Early Childhood Education-
Initial

Michelle Valencia

Quincy
Early Childhood Education-
Initial, Infant-Toddler Care,
General

Francine Vargas

Nespelem
Early Childhood Education-
Initial, General

Diana Vera

Colombiana, Columbia
Honors Student
Early Childhood Education-
Infant-Toddler Care, Initial

Jasmine Villalvazo

Leavenworth
Honors Student
Early Childhood Education-
Initial

Javier Villegas-Cardenas

Wenatchee
Computer Technician

Andrea Villanueva

Bridgeport
Honors Student
Early Childhood Education-
State Short Certificate

Diana Wilson

Ellensburg
Honors Student
Early Childhood Education-
Initial

Veronica Zaragoza

Wenatchee
Honors Student
Early Childhood Education-
State Short Certificate

Miguel Zavala

Wenatchee
Honors Student
Computer Technician

Guadalupe Zavala

Contreras
Quincy
Early Childhood Education-
Family Child Care, General,
Initial

Erik Zavala Rubio

Wenatchee
Honors Student
Computer Technician

HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMAS/DIPLOMAS DE PREPARATORIA 2025-2026



Arely Avina-Melendrez
Wenatchee
Washington High School
Diploma

Ava Ballew
Wenatchee
Honors Student
Washington High School
Diploma

Kaitlyn Burnell
East Wenatchee
Honors Student
Washington High School
Diploma

Joshua Cacho Navarrete
Wenatchee
Honors Student
Washington High School
Diploma

Asher Campbell
Honors Student
Washington High School
Diploma

Marco Cendejas
Wenatchee
Washington High School
Diploma

Thomas Chase
Wenatchee
Washington High School
Diploma

Sugey Corrales Vazquez
Nogales, Sonora
Honors Student
Washington High School
Diploma

Aven Davis
Wenatchee
Washington High School
Diploma

Stephanie Fryberg
Tulalip
HS+ High School Diploma

Corban Givens
Honors Student
Washington High School
Diploma

Nolan Godfrey
Wenatchee
Honors Student
Washington High School
Diploma

Jewell Goforth-Durst
Wenatchee
Honors Student
HS+ High School Diploma

Ezra Hatch
Tulalip
HS+ High School Diploma

Joshua Gary Henry
Houston, Texas
HS+ High School Diploma

Sophia Hevener
Grand Coulee
Washington High School
Diploma

Henry Hughes
Ridgefield
Washington High School
Diploma

Hanna Lyman
Manson
Washington High School
Diploma

Jose Martinez Fernandez
Michoacán, Mexico
Honors Student
HS+ High School Diploma

Marina Mendoza Serrano

Wenatchee
HS+ High School Diploma

Kalli Miller

Cashmere
Washington High School
Diploma

Kameron Miller

HS+ High School Diploma

Sophee Mott

Cashmere
Honors Student
Washington High School
Diploma

Kalijuana Nordling

Wenatchee
HS+ High School Diploma

Rubi Perez-Pierce

East Wenatchee
Washington High School
Diploma

Clayton Phipps

Leavenworth
Honors Student
Washington High School
Diploma

Noeleni Pulido-Velazquez

Wenatchee
Washington High School
Diploma

Zerimar Ramirez

Wenatchee
Honors Student
Washington High School
Diploma

Ivonne Ramirez-Cortes

Rock Island
Washington High School
Diploma

Jalyn Rasmussen

Wenatchee
Honors Student
Washington High School
Diploma

Aurelia Ribellia

East Wenatchee
Washington High School
Diploma

Elizabeth Robles

HS+ High School Diploma

Katherine Grace

Roylance
Quincy
Honors Student
Washington High School
Diploma

Jennifer Sanchez

Camarena
HS+ High School Diploma

Clairese Snyder

Quincy
Washington High School
Diploma

Margo Teeias-James

Toppenish
HS+ High School Diploma

Nojey Owen Toledo

Chelan Falls
Honors Student
Washington High School
Diploma

Jonah Twomoons

Spokane
HS+ High School Diploma

Brianna Urrutia-Vera

East Wenatchee
Honors Student
Washington High School
Diploma

Anna Marie Wallace

Wenatchee
Washington High School
Diploma

Aspen Wood

Entiat
Honors Student
Washington High School
Diploma

Ariana Yazzie

Everett
HS+ High School Diploma



FULL-TIME FACULTY/ PROFESORADO DE TIEMPO COMPLETO

WENATCHEE CAMPUS

Gretchen Aguilar | Nursing
ADN, Wenatchee Valley College
MS, Western Governors
University
MSN, ARNP-C, Gonzaga
University

Dr. Karen Alman | Communications
BA, University of West Indies
MA, University of Southern
California
PhD, Michigan State University

René Baca | Spanish
BA, MA, New Mexico State
University

Scott Bailey | Art
BA, Gonzaga University
MFA, Colorado State University

**Sompheng Batch | Business
Computer Technology**
BS, Central Washington
University
MEd, Western Governors
University

**Andrew Behler | Transitional
Studies**
AAS, Wenatchee Valley College
BA, Western Washington Uni-
versity
MA, Central Washington University

Dr. David J. Bennett | Science
AAS-PTA, Green River
Community College
BS, University of Washington
PhD, University of Notre Dame

Richard Brinkman | Sociology
BA, University of Oregon
MS, Iowa State University

Dr. Jeff Bullock | Agriculture
BS, MS, Western Washington
University
PhD, Washington State University

**David Burns | Computer
Technology**
BA, BA, Western Washington
University

Christa Cacciata | Mathematics
BA, San Diego State University
MA, California State University-
Fullerton

Michael Choman | Accounting, Business,
BS, MBA, University of Wyoming

Brigid Chvilicek | Nursing
BSN, University of Portland
MSN, California State University

Dustin Clark | History
BA, Central Washington
University
MA, University of Washington

**Hillary Conner | Exercise
Science**
AAS, Wenatchee Valley College
BS, MS, Central Washington
University

Tina Copenspire | Nursing
RN, Wenatchee Valley College
BS, Central Washington
University
BSN, MSN, Western Governors
University

**Tom Doherty | Automotive
Technology**
AA, Universal Technical Institute

Natalie Dotzauer | Art
BA, Central Washington
University
MFA, California College of the
Arts

**Dr. Oluwaseun (Ebenezer)
Akinterinwa | Biology**
BS, Morgan State University
MS, PhD, University of Louisville
School of Medicine

**Arius Elvikis | Art, Digital
Design**
BFA, Bradley University
MFA, Arizona State University

**Julie Fitch | Transitional
Studies**
BA, MA, Whitworth University

Rob Fitch | Biology
BA, University of California, Santa
Barbara
MS, University of British
Columbia

Dr. Jenny Freese | Nursing
BSN, Washington State University
MSN, Gonzaga University
DNP, American Sentinel
University

Dr. Megan Friesen | Biology
BS, BA Seattle Pacific University
MS, University of California Davis
PhD, University of Auckland

Dr. J'lene George | Psychology
BS, University of Utah
MS, PhD, University of Miami

Allycia Gonzales | Counselor
AA, Wenatchee Valley College
BSW, MSW, Eastern Washington
University

- Janna Goodyear |**
Developmental Education, English
BA, North Carolina University
MA, University of New Mexico
- Randy Grant | Criminal Justice**
BS, Seattle University
MA, City University
- Robert Greiner | Automotive Technology**
ATS, Denver Auto and Diesel College
- Erin Hardgrove | Exercise Science**
BS, Eastern Oregon University
MS, Nova Southeastern University
- Rebecca Hargrove | English**
BA, Lubbock Christian University
MA, California State University
- Shane Hendrickson | Chemistry**
BA, MS, University of Washington
- Dr. Awanthi Hewage | Chemistry**
BA, University of Colombo
PhD, University of Nevada-Reno
- Morgan Huston | Nursing**
AA, Big Bend Community College
BSN, Boise State University
MSN, Grand Canyon University
- Juel Iwaasa | Music**
BS, MM, Brigham Young University
- Zack Jacobson | Industrial Technology**
ATS, AA, Wenatchee Valley College
BA, Central Washington University
- Micky Jennings | Machining**
AAS, Walla Walla Community College
- Jack Johnson | English, Humanities**
BA, Central Washington University
MA, Southern Illinois University
- S. Hartwell Johnson | Humanities**
BA, MA, Western Washington University
- Greg Jourdan | Environmental Systems & Refrigeration Technology**
AAS, BS, Central Missouri State University
MA, Washington State University
- Kerin Keys | Mathematics**
BS, BA, The Evergreen State College
MA, San Francisco State College
- Dr. Jennifer Korfiatis | Business**
BA, Washington State University
MBA, Capella University
EdD, University of Southern California
- Lynne Kottmeier | Developmental Education**
BA, BSEd, MEd, University of Missouri-Columbia
- Katie Lantau | Medical Laboratory Technology**
ATS, Wenatchee Valley College
BS, MS, Central Washington University
- Dr. Kris Lau | Behavioral Health**
BA, Syracuse University
MA, City University
PhD, Saybrook University
- Dr. Hannah Leaf | Nursing**
AAS-T, Wenatchee Valley College
BS, Western Governors University
DNP, Post University
- Dr. Jim Lin | Physics**
AA, De Anza College
BS, MS, PhD, UC Davis
- Carolina Martinez Calderon**
AAS, BS, Wenatchee Valley College
MS, Gonzaga University
- Elizabeth McGregor | Mathematics**
AA, Wenatchee Valley College
BA, Central Washington University
MA, MS, Western Governors University
- Joara Minharo | Political Science**
BA, BS, Utah State University
MA, Western Washington University
- Brandy Nicolas | Nursing**
ADN, Olympic College
MSN, Gonzaga University
- Barbara Oldham | Librarian**
BEEd, Washburn University
MLIS, Emporia State University
- Shelly Pflugrath | Psychology**
BS, Washington State University
MEd, Heritage College
- Ryan Poortinga | Counselor**
AA, Wenatchee Valley College
BA, MA, Washington State University
- Dr. Joan Qazi | Geography, Sustainability**
BA, University of Washington
MA, University of Hawaii
PhD, University of Washington
- Dr. Sai Ramaswamy | Engineering Technology**
BE, MBA, Osmania University
MS, PhD, Iowa State University
- Bertha Ramirez | Counselor**
AA, Wenatchee Valley College
BS, Central Washington University
MEd, Heritage College
- R. Jaime Ramirez | ChicanX Studies, History**
AA, Yakima Valley Community College
BA, MA, Washington State University
- Angela Redmon | Mathematics**
BS, University of Portland
MS, Eastern Washington University
- Allie RuskLarsen | Nursing**
BSN, MSN, Arizona State University
- Angela Russell | Mathematics**
BS, Westminster College
MS, University of Utah
- Francisco Sarmiento | Agriculture**
AA, Wenatchee Valley College
BS, Washington State University
- Francisco Sarmiento-Torres | Agriculture**
BS, Washington State University
- Dr. Branwen Schaub | Math**
BA, University of Portland
MA, PhD, Oregon State University
- Amy Shank | English**
BA, MA, Eastern Washington University
MA, Whitworth College
- Derek Sheffield | English**
BA, MFA, University of Washington
MEd, Seattle University
- Julie Smith | Nursing**
BSN, University of Washington, Seattle
MN, University of Washington, Bothell
- Dr. Amy Snively | Anthropology**
BA, Central Washington University
MA, PhD, Washington State University
- Ana Maria Spagna | English**
BA, University of Oregon
MA, Northern Arizona University
MFA, Fairfield University
- Amanda Stringham | Pharmacy Technician**
BS, Western Washington University
- Nathaniel Suhr | Radiologic Technology**
BA, Western Washington University
MEd, Western Governors University
- Holly Thorpe | English**
BA, University of Washington
MFA, Eastern Washington University
- Claire Tompkins | Radiologic Technology**
AAS, Pensacola Junior College
BA, Florida State University
MA, Western Governors University
- Patrick Tracy | Medical Laboratory Technology**
BS, University of North Dakota
MA, Adam Mickiewicz University
- Dr. Richard Underbakke | Business**
AS, Des Moines Community College
BS, Simpson College
MBA, Drake University
PhD, Capella University

**Craig Vander Hart |
Philosophy**

*BA, Northwest University
MA, Gonzaga University*

Gustavo Vargas | Nursing

*ADN, BSN, Wenatchee Valley
College*

**Beverly Warman | Addiction
Studies**

*AAS, Wenatchee Valley College
BA, Western Washington
University
MEd, Heritage College*

Sharon Wiest | Mathematics

*BS, Gonzaga University
MS, University of Colorado*

**Dr. Derin Wysham |
Mathematics**

*BS, University of California
PhD, University of Colorado*

Susan Yale | Nursing

*AA, ADN, Wenatchee Valley
College
BA, Washington State University
MSN, Gonzaga University*

PART-TIME FACULTY/ PROFESORADO DE TIEMPO PARCIAL

WENATCHEE VALLEY COLLEGE

**Robert Anderson | Industrial
Technology**

Robin Angotti | Math

Lisa Aqabal | Nursing

**Marco Aurilio | Industrial
Technology**

**Raynor Baker | Emergency
Medical Technician**

Damon Barta | English

**Susan Blair-Broxson |
Physical Education**

Alexa Blake | Nursing

**Carla Boyd | Business
Computer Technology**

Ellen Bruex | Art

Meleah Butruille | Nursing

Sarah Cabbage | Education

Amy Carlson | English

**Teresa Carnevale |
Occupational Education**

**Gloria Cassiano | Adult Basic
Education**

**Jennifer Cawdery | Student
Developmental Skills**

Robert Christal | Psychology

**Darrin Clarin | Industrial
Technology**

April Clayton | Chemistry

**Stella Columbia | Adult Basic
Education**

**Rinita Cook | Emergency
Medical Technician**

Linda Cooper | English

**Sheila Corson |
Communication Studies**

Jessica Culbertson | Nursing

Doris Culliton | English

Ralph Dawes | Geology

Timothy Day | Psychology

Zachary Eddy | English

**Christina Eickmeyer |
Emergency Medical
Technician**

**Raymon Eickmeyer |
Emergency Medical
Technician**

**Andrea Elliott |
Communication Studies**

**Kaja Englund | Addiction
Studies**

**Uriel Escobedo | Adult Basic
Education**

**Karla Fahey | Early
Childhood Education**

Ryan Fancher | Engineering

**Maria Fernandez | Early
Childhood Education**

**Lori Fishburn | Business
Computer Technology**

**Heather Flatness| Early
Childhood Education**

**Lisa Foster| Business
Computer Technology**

Rhia Foster | Music

Melissa Fowler | Nursing

Samantha Fraley | English

**Marina Garcia-Guzman |
Business Computer
Technology**

**Richard Gutzwiler |
Industrial Technology**

Laine Hackenberg | Biology

**Jennifer Hadersberger |
Biology**

**Kimberly Hagstrom-
Sweeney | Adult Basic
Education**

Kyle Hammon | Agriculture

**Donna Henderson | Adult
Basic Education**

**Jenny Henn | American Sign
Language**

**Monique Hirschhorn |
American Sign Language**

Kailyn Hudson | Nursing

**Ashley Jeffris | Radiologic
Technology**

**Shawn Hunstock |
Accounting**

Jeremy Hunt | Geography

**Judith Jackson | Early
Childhood Education**

**Camden Johnson | Adult
Basic Education, Math**

**Hadley Jolley | Business
Computer Technology**

Caroline Kennedy | Nursing

Tim Kyle | Engineering

Brittney Lamb | Nursing

Rochelle Lange | Health

**Jessica Lara | Early
Childhood Education**

Barbara Lawson | Nursing

Kelley Lemons | Math

**Jeremiah Lofthus |
Communication Studies**

**Ramiro Lopez | Industrial
Technology**

**Stacy Luckensmeyer |
Business Computer
Technology**

Linda Lyons | Art

**Brant Madson | Computer
Technology**

**David McDowell | Physical
Education**

**Beatrice McGregor | Adult
Basic Education**

Randy Mitchell | Business

Karen Molander | Nursing

**Alec Morgan | Physical
Education**

Constance Morris | Nursing

**Patricia Mugg | American
Sign Language**

**Allen Neace | Business
Computer Technology**

Phillip Nissley | Nursing

**Linda Nunez | Emergency
Medical Technician**

Ann Oppenheimer Medical Assistant	Matthew Roylance English	Sarah Sprouse Art	Jeremy Voigt English
Elena Payne Art	Bridget Ryan Nursing	Gregory Stewart Geography	Scott Volyn Business
Emerson Peek Occupational Education, Spanish	David Ryan Math	Niki Stewart English	Patricia Whitfield Communications Studies
Erin Philips Nursing	Michelle Sadewasser Business Computer Technology	Michelle Stoneburner Nursing	Benjamin Wilson Addiction Studies
Tina Polzin Drama	Valerie Schneider Adult Basic Education	Loretta Stover Addiction Studies	James Wright Environmental Systems and Refrigeration Technology
Delcie Proffitt Physical Education	Sierra Schonschack Nursing	Julie Tate-Libby Sociology	Lara Young Nutrition
Suzanne Reilly Sociology	Shannon Seagondollar Nursing	Claire Thompson English	
Kim Richards Jr. History	Aaron Shepard Criminal Justice	Kenzi Toft Nursing	
Lashaune Riddick Environmental Systems and Refrigeration Technology	Edgar Smith Art	Connie Toth Nursing	
Summer Rider Education	Elaine Smith English	Levi Vega-Sanchez Student Developmental Skills	
	Saxon Spillman Humanities	Jody Velasco Nursing	
		Linda Visser Nursing	

WVC CABINET REPRESENTATIVES/REPRESENTANTES DEL GABINETE DE WVC

Dr. Faimous Harrison <i>President</i>	Lisa Harger <i>Vice President, Organizational Culture & Engagement</i>	Fred Neghabat <i>Senior Budget Manager & Internal Controls Accountant</i>	Clint Strand <i>Executive Director, WVC Foundation</i>
Cal Cross <i>Dean, WVC Omak</i>	Maria Iñiguez <i>Chief of Staff</i>	Ellia Sablan-Zebedy <i>Dean, Enrollment Services & Student Success</i>	Steve Ward <i>Interim Vice President, Administrative Services</i>
Dr. Diana Garza <i>Vice President, Student Affairs</i>	Marcine Miller <i>Executive Director, Communications, Marketing, and Media Relations</i>	Dr. Tod Treat <i>Vice President, Instruction</i>	
Dr. Jennifer Hadersberger <i>Interim Executive Director, Institutional Effectiveness</i>			

TRUSTEES/JUNTA DIRECTIVA DE WVC

Paula Arno Martinez	Phylicia Hancock Lewis <i>Vice Chair</i>	Tamra Jackson	Steve Zimmerman
Wilma Cartagena <i>Board Chair</i>			

2025-2026 ASWVC STUDENT SENATE/SENADO ESTUDIANTIL DE ASWVC

Diana Morales-Cruz <i>President</i>	Andrew Roberts <i>Treasurer</i>	Angeli Zaldivar <i>Director of Diversity</i>	Marianna Pacheco <i>Student Ambassador</i>
Marley Burgess-Duquette <i>Vice President</i>	America Guerrero <i>Director of Public Relations</i>	Brianna Urrutia <i>Director of Social & Civic Responsibility</i>	Demye Rensel <i>Student Ambassador</i>
Ivana Zaldivar <i>Secretary</i>	Zoey Jourdan <i>Director of Health and Wellness</i>	Carter Perlinski <i>Student Ambassador</i>	Caden Werner <i>Student Ambassador</i>

THANK YOU/GRACIAS

GRADUATION COMMITTEE/COMITÉ DE GRADUACIÓN

Lisa Bozett
Customer Service Specialist 2,
Registration

Lupe Brito
Development Director
WVC Foundation

Sarah Buman
Senior Graphic Designer
Public Information Office

Michelle Cannaday
Residence Life Manager

Vidiriana Cervantes
Executive Assistant, Student
Affairs and Instruction

Cal Cross
Dean, WVC Omak

Dayla Culp
Program Assistant, WVC Omak

Lisa De Vera
Office Assistant 3, Service Center

Cecilia Escobedo
Director, Instructional Services

Jenna Floyd
Student Access Manager

Beatriz Garibay
Outreach and Recruitment
Coordinator, CAMP

Dr. Diana Garza
Vice President, Student Affairs

Maria Iñiguez
Chief of Staff

Heather Maddy
Executive Assistant, Vice
President of Administrative
Services

Karina Mendoza-Flores
Outreach & Recruitment
Coordinator

Marcine Miller
Executive Director,
Communications, Marketing, and
Media Relations

Dr. Maria Morales-Sanchez
Director, El Corazon

Shea Morgan
IT Customer Support-Senior

Emerson Peek
Translator

Jennifer Perez
Credentials Evaluator 3

Iris Rodriguez
Director of Student Life

Karina Ruelas
Customer Service Specialist 3,
Registration

Bertha Sanchez
Director, Counseling Services

Kent Sisson
Safety, Security, and Emergency
Manager

Maggie Segesser
Registrar and Director, Enrollment
Services

Theresa Taylor
Communications Consultant 2,
Public Information Office

Aaron Vaughn
SRC Manager and Head Baseball
Coach

Roberto Villa
Student Leadership Coordinator

Erin Williams
Facilities & Operations Program
Manager



CONGRATS
2026
GRADUATES!

Balloons were provided
by Balloonn Gala



ACADEMIC DRESS

The caps and gowns worn today by the Wenatchee Valley College administration, faculty, and students are the official and traditional regalia designed for graduation. A student wears a long, full-flowing robe and a tight-fitting skull cap attached to a stiff piece called a mortarboard, with a tassel dangling from a button placed in the center of the mortarboard. Some of the participants may wear a cape or hood lined with colored silk and trimmed with velvet. Most collegiate caps, gowns and hoods are black. The cut of the robe and its sleeves, as well as its trimming, indicate

various academic degrees. In 1884, the Intercollegiate Commission set the standards of academic regalia in the United States.

All-Washington

The All-Washington Academic team program recognizes and honors two-year college students for their scholastic achievement and community and college service. It is sponsored by the Washington Association of Community and Technical Colleges, the TACTC, the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges and Phi Theta Kappa.

College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP)

The College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP) is a federal program that provides academic and financial support services to students from migrant and seasonal farmworker backgrounds so they may achieve success in the first year of college and persist to college completion. The program strives to empower students so they have a strong foundation to build upon as they work toward a bachelor's degree.

First Generation Students

Some students graduating today are wearing a white

stole with "First Generation" printed on it. This indicates that the student is the first member of their family to graduate from college.

High School+

High School+ allows adult learners to earn a high school diploma. This new program gives credits toward a diploma for prior work and life experience, in addition to academic assignments to complete credit requirements.

Honors Students

An honor student is one who has earned a grade point average of 3.50 or above.

Honors students may be wearing a gold cord.

International Students

Students in the WVC International Students Program may be wearing an international flag stole, which usually features the color and symbols of the country's flag.

Knights Student Athletes

Students who are wearing a black and silver stole bearing the Knights logo and the words "Student" and "Athlete" are athletes on one of WVC's seven teams: softball, baseball, women's basketball, men's basketball, volleyball, women's soccer, and men's soccer.

LGBTQ+ Students

Some students graduating today are wearing a black stole with the six colors of the rainbow, representing LGBTQ+ pride.

MEChA

Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano/a de Aztlan (MEChA) members wear multi-colored stoles to represent their organization and cultures. MEChA is a national organization that promotes higher education, culture, and history for Latino/a students to reach their full potential.

MEChA is a spirit of unity, sisterhood/brotherhood, and a resolve to undertake a liberation in society.

MESA Students

The WA MESA Transfer Prep program works with students in their first two years of community college and focuses on supporting them with their transition into a post-secondary STEM career. WVC MESA is a relational, student-centered program that offers academic and non-academic support to underserved students in STEM who intend to transfer with their Wenatchee Valley College associate's degree to a four-year degree program. MESA students may be wearing a black and red stole with "STEM" and "MESA" in red text.

Nursing Graduates

Students earning a Bachelor of Science in Nursing or an Associate in Nursing can be identified by their white robes. Students earning a bachelor's degree may also wear apricot-colored stoles.

Outstanding Graduates

Outstanding graduates from the three major academic divisions of liberal arts and sciences, workforce education and allied health are

nominated by faculty and chosen based on exemplary character, attitude, attendance, proficiency level, personal development and leadership.

Phi Theta Kappa (PTK)

Phi Theta Kappa is a national honor society emphasizing scholarship, leadership, and service. Membership is open by invitation to students who are in the upper 10 percent of the class, carry at least 12 transferable credit hours, have a grade point average of 3.20 or above, and show evidence of service to the community and institution.

President's Medal

The president's medal is awarded to honor one graduate on each campus in Wenatchee and Omak who excels in academic work, is actively involved in student leadership on campus or in the community, and demonstrates outstanding character and spirit.

Red Road Association

The Red Road Association focuses on local and national Native American awareness. The association also works to dispel myths of the general population about Native Americans and to bridge the gap in communication and

between communities.

Transforming Lives Award

The Washington State Association of College Trustees (ACT) created the Transforming Lives Awards program in 2012 to recognize current or former students whose lives have been transformed by pursuing higher education at a community or technical college.

TRIO SSS

TRIO graduates wear a white stole with red lettering. TRIO Student Support Services is a federally funded program that provides low-income, first-generation college students and students with disabilities the valuable support and services that will assist in student success and persistence toward graduation. TRIO serves to motivate and help students accomplish their goals by offering comprehensive individual support.

Veteran and Active Duty Students

Students who are veterans or are actively serving in the U.S. Military may be wearing veteran stoles or stoles specific to the branch of the military in which they served.

VESTIMENTA ACADÉMICA

Los gorros y trajes que portan hoy los miembros de la administración de Wenatchee Valley College, el profesorado y los estudiantes son parte de la vestimenta de gala oficial y tradicional diseñada para la graduación. Un estudiante lleva una toga larga y suelta y un birrete, un gorro ajustado con un panel rígido con una borla que cuelga de un botón ubicado en el centro. Algunos de los participantes pueden usar una capa o capucha revestida con seda de colores y tiras de terciopelo. La mayoría de los gorros, trajes y capas son de color negro. El patrón de la capa y de las mangas, así

como sus adornos, indican los diferentes niveles académicos que posee la persona que los porta. En 1884, la Comisión Intercolegial estableció las normas de la vestimenta académica formal en los Estados Unidos.

All-Washington

El programa del equipo académico All-Washington rinde homenaje a los estudiantes de colegios comunitarios de dos años por sus logros académicos y servicio a la comunidad. El programa está patrocinado por la Washington Association of Community and Technical Colleges, la Washington State Associ-

ation of College Trustees, la State Board for Community and Technical Colleges y por la sociedad de honor Phi Theta Kappa.

Programa de Asistencia para Migrantes en el Colegio (CAMP)

El Programa de Asistencia para Migrantes en el Colegio (CAMP, por sus siglas en inglés) es un programa federal que ofrece servicios de apoyo académico y económico a estudiantes de familias migrantes o de empleados agrícolas temporales para que puedan alcanzar el éxito en su primer año en el

colegio y logren completar sus estudios superiores. El programa busca empoderar a los estudiantes para que tengan una base sólida sobre la que puedan construir sus estudios hacia una licenciatura.

Estudiantes de primera generación

Algunos estudiantes que se gradúan hoy utilizan una estola blanca con las palabras "Primera generación" (First Generation). Esto indica que el estudiante es el primer miembro de su familia en graduarse del colegio.

High School+

High School+ permite a los estudiantes adultos obtener un diploma de preparatoria. Este nuevo programa otorga créditos por experiencia laboral y de vida previa para obtener un diploma, además de ofrecer tareas académicas para completar los requisitos de los créditos.

Estudiantes de honor

Un estudiante de honor es aquel que ha obtenido un promedio de calificaciones (GPA) igual o superior a 3.50. Es posible que los estudiantes de honor utilicen una cuerda dorada.

Estudiantes internacionales

Los estudiantes del programa de estudiantes internacionales de WVC pueden llevar una estola con los colores de la bandera y símbolos de su país de origen.

Estudiantes atletas Knights

Los estudiantes que portan una estola negra y plateada con el logotipo de los Knights y las palabras "Student" y "Athlete" forman parte de alguno de los siete equipos deportivos de WVC: fútbol, béisbol, baloncesto femenino y masculino, voleibol, fútbol femenino y masculino.

Estudiantes LGBTQ+

Algunos estudiantes que se gradúan hoy utilizan una estola negra con los seis colores del arcoíris para representar el orgullo LGBTQ+.

MEChA

Los miembros del Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano/a de Aztlán (MEChA) utilizan estolas multicolores para representar a su organización y su cultura. MEChA es una organización internacional que promueve la educación superior, la cultura y la historia de los estudiantes latinos para que alcancen pleno su potencial. MEChA representa el espíritu de unidad, hermandad/fraternidad y la determinación de poder ser libres en sociedad.

Estudiantes MESA

El programa WA MESA



Transfer Prep trabaja con estudiantes en sus primeros dos años de colegio comunitario y se enfoca en apoyarlos con su transición hacia una carrera postsecundaria en la ciencia, la tecnología, la ingeniería y/o las matemáticas (STEM, por sus siglas en inglés). WVC MESA es un programa relacional y centrado en el estudiante que ofrece apoyo académico y no académico a estudiantes subrepresentados en STEM que tienen la intención de transferirse con su título de asociado de Wenatchee Valley College a un programa de licenciatura de cuatro años. Los estudiantes MESA pueden llevar una estola negra y roja con unas letras en rojo que dicen "STEM" y "MESA."

Graduados de enfermería

Los estudiantes que reciben su título de licenciatura en ciencias de enfermería o título de asociados en enfermería se pueden identificar por sus togas blancas. También es posible que los estudiantes que reciben una licenciatura utilicen estolas de color durazno.

Graduados destacados

Los graduados destacados de las tres divisiones académicas principales de artes liberales y ciencias, capacitación profesional y salud son nominados por el profesorado y seleccionados con base en su carácter ejemplar, actitud,

asistencia, nivel de competencia, desarrollo personal y liderazgo.

Phi Theta Kappa (PTK)

Phi Theta Kappa es una sociedad de honor internacional centrada en la educación, el liderazgo y el servicio. La membresía se ofrece por invitación a los estudiantes de la clase que forman parte del 10% con las mejores calificaciones, han cursado al menos 12 horas de créditos transferibles, tienen un promedio de calificaciones de 3.20 o superior, y que demuestran servicio a la comunidad y a la institución.

Medalla del Presidente

La Medalla del Presidente se otorga a un graduado de cada campus, en Wenatchee y en Omak, que se destaca por su trabajo académico, que se involucra activamente en el liderazgo estudiantil en el colegio o en la comunidad, y que demuestra un carácter y espíritu excepcionales.

Asociación Red Road

La Asociación Red Road se enfoca en la concientización sobre las culturas Nativas Americanas a nivel local y nacional. La asociación también trabaja para disipar mitos de la población general sobre los Nativos Americanos y para cerrar la brecha en la comunicación y entre comunidades.

Premio 'Transformando vidas'

La Washington State Association of College Trustees (ACT, por sus siglas en inglés) creó el programa de premios "Transformando vidas" en 2012 para rendir homenaje a estudiantes o exestudiantes cuyas vidas fueron transformadas al completar la educación superior en un colegio comunitario o técnico.

TRIO SSS

Los graduados de TRIO Student Support Services (TRIO SSS, por sus siglas en inglés) utilizan una estola blanca con letras rojas. TRIO SSS es un programa federal que ofrece servicios y ayuda invaluable a estudiantes de bajos recursos, estudiantes universitarios de primera generación y estudiantes con discapacidades para contribuir a su éxito estudiantil y durante su camino hacia la graduación. TRIO trabaja para motivar y ayudar a los estudiantes a que alcancen sus metas al ofrecerles apoyo individual integral.

Estudiantes veteranos y en servicio activo

Los estudiantes que son veteranos o quienes se encuentran en servicio activo en las Fuerzas Armadas de los Estados Unidos pueden usar estolas de veteranos o estolas específicas según la rama de las Fuerzas Armadas a la que pertenecen.

GRADUATION 2026

Thank you for attending the 2026 commencement ceremony at Wenatchee Valley College! We have created a web page with all the information you may need to enjoy this year's graduation. Scan the QR code below to:

- Access digital copies of the graduation program
- Download graduation photos
- Find the livestream link for the ceremony
- Complete a graduation survey to help us improve future events for all attendees
- Connect with the Alumni Network

Don't forget to congratulate a graduate! Share your photo of a WVC graduate on social media and tag #WVC2026.

CEREMONIA DE GRADUACIÓN DE 2026

¡Gracias por acompañarnos en la ceremonia de graduación de Wenatchee Valley College! Hemos creado una página web con toda la información que necesitan para disfrutar de la ceremonia de graduación este año. Escaneen el código QR a continuación para:

- Obtener copias digitales del programa de graduación
- Descargar fotos de la graduación
- Encontrar el enlace para la transmisión en vivo de la ceremonia
- Completar una encuesta sobre la ceremonia de graduación para ayudarnos a mejorar los eventos futuros
- Conectarse con la Red de Egresados

¡No olviden felicitar a un(a) graduado/a! Compartan la foto de su graduado/a en las redes sociales usando la etiqueta #WVC2026.

Website link/Enlace de la página web:

wvc.edu/apply/register/graduation/graduation-2026





CONGRATULATIONS NEW WVC ALUM!

As a graduate, you are now a lifelong member of the Wenatchee Valley College Alumni Network. There are no dues or fees for your membership.

Find us on Facebook, Instagram, & LinkedIn for updates about WVC alumni events, networking opportunities, business connections, and more!

We welcome you to reach out to us - we're here for you!
alum@wvc.edu | 509-682-6573



¡FELICIDADES A LOS NUEVOS EGRESADOS DE WVC!

Como graduado, usted ya es miembro de por vida de la Asociación de Egresados de Wenatchee Valley College. No hay que pagar la membresía.

¡Visítenos en Facebook, Instagram, y LinkedIn para información sobre nuestros eventos para egresados, oportunidades de *networking*, contactos profesionales y mas!

¡Le invitamos a contactarnos! ¡Estamos aquí para servirle!
alum@wvc.edu | 509-682-6573





NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

Wenatchee Valley College is committed to a policy of equal opportunity in employment and student enrollment. All programs are free from discrimination and harassment against any person because of race, creed, color, national or ethnic origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability, or the use of a service animal by a person with a disability, age, parental status or families with children, marital status, religion, genetic information, honorably discharged veteran or military status or any other prohibited basis per RCW 49.60.030, 040 and other federal and state laws and regulations, or participation in the complaint process.

The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies and Title IX compliance for both the Wenatchee and Omak campuses:

- To report discrimination or harassment: Title IX Coordinator, Wenatchi Hall 2322M, (509) 682-6445, title9@wvc.edu.
- To request disability accommodations: Student Access Manager, Wenatchi Hall 2131, (509) 682-6854, TTY/TTD: dial 711, sas@wvc.edu.

DECLARACIÓN DE NO DISCRIMINACIÓN

Wenatchee Valley College está comprometido a una política de igualdad de oportunidades en el empleo y la matriculación de estudiantes. Todos los programas están libres de discriminación y acoso contra cualquier persona debido a raza, credo, color, origen nacional o étnico, sexo, orientación sexual, identidad o expresión de género, la presencia de cualquier discapacidad sensorial, mental o física, o el uso de un animal de servicio por una persona con discapacidad, edad, estatus o familias con niños, estado civil, religión, información genética, veterano descargado honorablemente o estatus militar o cualquier otra base prohibida conforme al RCW (Código Revisado de Washington) 49.60.030, 040 y otras leyes y regulaciones federales y estatales, o participación en el proceso de queja.

Las siguientes personas han sido designadas para atender consultas sobre las políticas de no discriminación y el cumplimiento del Título IX para los campus de Wenatchee y Omak:

- Para denunciar discriminación o acoso: Coordinador del Título IX, Wenatchi Hall 2322M, (509) 682-6445, title9@wvc.edu.
- Para solicitar adaptaciones para discapacitados: Gerente de acceso estudiantil, Wenatchi Hall 2131, (509) 682-6854, TTY/TTD: marque 711, sas@wvc.edu.



**TWO CAMPUSES,
ONE MISSION**

 WENATCHEE VALLEY
COLLEGE

COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY SPEECHES

in English and Spanish

WENATCHEE VALLEY COLLEGE

Thursday, June 18, 2026 | 7 PM
Town Toyota Center | Wenatchee, WA

CONGRATULATIONS

FROM DR. FAIMOUS HARRISON,
WVC PRESIDENT

Today, we celebrate you, our outstanding Class of 2026. You should be proud of the degrees, certificates, and diplomas that you have earned, and know that we, the faculty and staff, are proud of your accomplishments. You may have overcome many obstacles and made sacrifices to get to this day. You may have also celebrated many victories. While challenges may lie ahead, there will also be opportunities. Seize those moments. Strive for excellence. Have confidence in yourself and in your education. Go into the world knowing that your education, your sacrifices, and your successes have strengthened you to overcome any challenges that the future may present.

My fellow Knights, on behalf of the Wenatchee Valley College faculty, staff, and trustees, congratulations!

A MESSAGE

FROM THE WVC BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees exists to help guide the college in fulfilling its mission. The importance of that mission is never more apparent than at graduation. We take great pride in seeing the students of WVC take ownership of their lives and their futures by pursuing their education. To the Class of 2025, you have our sincere congratulations. This journey toward your education is only the first step toward a brighter future. We cannot wait to see what you accomplish next.

WELCOME

FROM DR. DIANA GARZA, WVC VICE
PRESIDENT OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

Good evening graduates, family, and friends. My name is Dr. Diana Garza, Vice President of student affairs. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, administration, staff, and faculty of Wenatchee Valley College, it is my pleasure to welcome you officially to tonight's ceremony.

Tonight's ceremony recognizes Wenatchee Valley College's pride as a Hispanic Serving Institution by incorporating a culturally blended approach. For starters, I'd like to recognize tonight's Mariachi who welcomed us in. Gracias, Mariachi Imperio Real!

In addition, printed translations are available in the lobby. Providing American Sign Language interpretation are Ella Devon and Bailee McLeod. Providing Spanish interpretation for us tonight is Dr. María Morales-Sánchez, Director of El Corazón.

Among you there are almost 400 students who are graduating. These graduates represent communities from California, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Texas, Utah, and Washington. There are also graduates here tonight from Cameroon, China, Germany, Japan, Mexico, Portugal, and the Ukraine. They have studied hard and preserved while balancing work, school, and family, and will tonight receive their degrees and certificates.

We will begin tonight's ceremony with the National Anthem, performed by WVC student Jaden Matson. Please stand if you are not already doing so.

LAND AND LABOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT

At this time, we would like to acknowledge the land on which we serve and the contributions for immigrants to this valley.

Wenatchee Valley College respectfully acknowledges that the Wenatchee and Omak campuses are located on the traditional territories of the Wenatchi and Okanagan peoples. The traditional territories of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation extend across eastern Washington and into parts of British Columbia, Oregon, and Idaho.

The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation include the Lakes, Colville, Okanogan, Moses Columbia, Wenatchi, Entiat, Chelan, Methos, Nespelem, San Poil, Chief Joseph Band of the Nez Perce, and Palus Peoples.

In accordance with the college's commitment to diversity and inclusion, we work to strengthen relationships with the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation through academic programs, partnerships, historical recognitions, community services, and enrollment efforts.

FELICITACIONES

DEL DR. FAIMOUS HARRISON, PRESIDENTE DE WVC

Hoy, los celebramos a ustedes, nuestra distinguida Clase de 2026. Deben estar orgullosos de los títulos, certificados y diplomas que han obtenido, y que sepan que nosotros, el profesorado y el personal, estamos orgullosos de sus logros. Puede que hayan superado muchos obstáculos y hecho sacrificios para llegar a este día. Puede que también hayan celebrado muchas victorias. Aunque puede haber desafíos por delante, también habrá oportunidades. Aprovechen esos momentos. Esfuércense por alcanzar la excelencia. Confíen en quiénes son y en su educación. Salgan al mundo sabiendo que su educación, sus sacrificios y sus éxitos los han fortalecido para superar cualquier desafío que el futuro pueda presentarles.

Estimados Knights, en nombre del profesorado, el personal y los miembros de la Junta Directiva de Wenatchee Valley College, ¡felicidades!

UN MENSAJE

DE LA JUNTA DIRECTIVA DE WVC

La Junta Directiva existe para ayudar a guiar al colegio en el cumplimiento de su misión. La importancia de esa misión es más evidente que nunca al momento de la graduación. Nos enorgullece ver a los estudiantes de WVC tomar control de sus vidas y su futuro al continuar tras su educación. Deseamos dar nuestras más sinceras felicitaciones a la Clase de 2025. Este viaje hacia su educación es sólo el primer paso hacia un futuro más brillante. Estamos ansiosos por ver lo que lograrán a continuación.

BIENVENIDA

DE LA DRA. DIANA GARZA, VICEPRESIDENTA DE ASUNTOS ESTUDIANTILES DE WVC

RECONOCIMIENTO DE TIERRAS Y CONTRIBUCIONES LABORALES

COMMENCEMENT SPEECH

BY DEREK SHEFFIELD, WVC FACULTY

Thank you to the student leaders for inviting me to be here. The chance to speak to you today like this is an honor I do not take lightly, and over the last couple months I have written a few versions of what I'm about to share with you. In the end, as I often do, I turned to poetry and daughter magic. Here is a poem I wrote from a memory of my daughter. It is set in that time when winter is losing its grasp on the world and the idea of spring is emerging.

All of It and Zoey

We wondered about the snow beyond our windows, looking out every morning across the dwindling archipelago of white puzzle pieces. Which day will be its last? We wrote our guesses in April's white squares in our names. And there must have been a number, too, for the day you reached up to take my hand and lead me by little steps out the door.

We wore our puffy coats as you tugged me down the drive, our steps crunching across gravel, and off through brush until we came to needles and twigs made into a mound as tall as you, sun-touched and steaming like something new and, we saw, somehow alive with tiny movements in the millions. Breathlessly, with all the excitement of your little life, you said—"Daddy! We're in the whole world!"—and squeezed my hand. I turned my gaze from those ants, more and more coming to life, to your gold, unbrushed hair pinned by a pink barrette and glowing in the sun. Brisk air on my skin, bristle of ridgetop pine trees, trickle and scent of meltwater and blue sky—all of it. And all of you and all of me. Yes. Yes, we are.

That is what I have to say to you, what my toddler daughter said to me so long ago. With any luck, my poem conveys a tenth of the wonder that lit her in that moment. The wonder of being not ON the world but IN it. We are not apart from the world of tree and creek and sun and bird and ant and dirt but a part of it. We are the eyes and ears and skin and soul of the world--and that is a mighty wonder indeed that flashed through my daughter that day. And the truth of this means also that what we do to leaf and air and ice caps we do to ourselves. This is what we learn in sustainability class with Dr. Qazi. What's more, we learn that how we treat each other manifests in how we treat ourselves. So

the question is: How do we conduct our lives in a way that doesn't degrade or destroy, but instead not only preserves but makes this living world maybe a little better? How do we do that for each other, for ourselves and for those to come who will also want to delight in spring's first pink petals and bright songs and stirrings. Poet Mary Oliver says, "all you have to do is let the soft animal of your body love what it loves." I know that the longer I am on a screen--any screen--phone, computer, Canvas, social media--the more my body wilts like a flower who has been cut from its stem and doesn't even have the grace of a glass of water. And the truth of this experience is found in a couple words your generation have added to the language. Doomscrolling, anyone? Or perhaps you'd rather rot for awhile? Beyond words and rhymes, poetry is a way of being IN the world such that even in difficult times when we are challenged or hurting or broken we are present to the gift of being alive. To feel the breath in our bodies and that animating force, that LIFE, that HERE-ness and NOW-ness of each moment we have been given. My daughter's name, Zoey, means life. Zoology is the study of life. I have been engaged in Zoey-ology now for nearly 21 years. But LIFE. That is what I wish for you. The ability to be IN your life in such a way that its fragile and finite nature sharpens the blade of your zest. *Joi de vivre* is what I wish for you. *Sobremesa*, I say. Or, as we say in my poetry classes, *Carpe Diem*. Your life is not a given but a gift going by. Adults in Silicon Valley are working hard to create algorithms and apps that keep us distracted from what's truly important and meaningful. You can choose to help them in this endeavor by giving them that most precious thing, your attention. That will surely keep their salaries in six figures and beyond. Or you can be here now. Like this now, right now. With your family and friends and classmates and teachers. You can be here now which is to say awake and aware. Not just of the human family, but everything that makes this grand array. I mean the feel of a breeze across your skin and the sharp scent of sagebrush. The chirping swallows and other birds who are out beyond our walls now feeding their nestlings. The Chinook salmon and other fishes right now in the waters of the Wenatchee and Columbia around us. The June Beetles, the lichens and mosses and fungi. And even those rocks, those boulders underneath which the marmots burrow. All of it. And all of them. And us. Yes. Here. Now. Thank you and congratulations.

DISCURSO DE GRADUACIÓN

DE DEREK SHEFFIELD, CONSEJERA DE WVC

Gracias a los líderes estudiantiles por invitarme a estar aquí. La oportunidad de hablarles a ustedes hoy es un honor que no tomo a la ligera, y durante los últimos meses he escrito unas versiones de lo que estoy a punto de compartir con ustedes. Al final, como suelo hacer, recurrí a la poesía y a la magia de las hijas. He aquí un poema que escribí a partir de un recuerdo de mi hija. Se sitúa en aquel momento en el que el invierno está soltando su dominio sobre el mundo y la idea de la primavera está aflorando.

Todo Aquello y Zoey

Nos preguntábamos sobre la nieve más allá de nuestras ventanas,
asomando cada mañana al archipiélago menguante
de piezas blancas de rompecabezas. ¿Qué día
será su último? Escribimos nuestras predicciones
en los cuadritos del mes de abril en nuestros nombres.
Y seguramente hubo
un número, también, para el día que extendiste la
mano hacia la mía y me dirigiste pasito a pasito para
afuera.
Vestíamos nuestras chamarras acolchadas mientras
me jalabas de la mano, llevándome por el camino de
entrada, nuestros pasos crujientes en la gravilla, y hacia
el matorral hasta que llegamos a las agujas
y las ramitas hechas en un montículo tan alto como tú,
tocado por rayos del sol y humeante como algo nuevo
y, vimos, de alguna manera vivo con millones de
movimientos minúsculos. Sin aliento, con toda la
emoción de tu pequeña vida, dijiste, “¡Papi! ¡Estamos
en
el mundo entero!”— y me apretaste la mano.
Aparté la mirada de las hormigas, cada vez más vivas,
y la posé en tu cabello dorado despeinado sujeto con
un broche rosado y resplandeciente en la luz del sol.
Aire fresco en la piel, el erizarse de los pinos de la
cumbre,
el goteo y el olor del agua del deshielo y cielo azul—
todo aquello. Y todo tú y todo yo. Sí. Sí, sí lo estamos.

Esto es lo que tengo que decirles, lo que mi hija pequeña me dijo hace tiempo. Con algo de suerte, mi poema transmite un décimo del asombro que la hizo brillar en aquel instante. El asombro no de estar SOBRE el mundo sino DENTRO de él. No estamos separados del mundo del árbol y arroyo y sol y pájaro y hormiga y tierra, sino somos parte de él. Somos los ojos y oídos y piel y alma del mundo—y ese es un potente asombro que le iluminó a mi hija aquel día. Y la verdad de todo eso significa también que lo que hacemos a la hoja y aire y los casquetes polares lo hacemos a nosotros mismos. Esto es lo que se aprende en el curso de sostenibilidad con la Dra. Qazi. Es más, aprendemos que

el cómo nos tratamos el uno al otro se manifiesta en cómo nos tratamos a nosotros mismos. Entonces la pregunta es: ¿Cómo llevamos nuestras vidas de tal manera que no maltratemos ni destruyamos, sino que conservemos y mejoremos este mundo vivo? ¿Cómo lo hacemos el uno para el otro, para nosotros mismos y para quienes vendrán que también querrán disfrutar los primeros pétalos rosados y los cantos vivos y los despertares de la primavera? La poeta Mary Oliver dice “solo tienes que dejar que el animal suave de tu cuerpo ame lo que ama”. Yo sé que cuanto más tiempo paso delante de una pantalla –cualquier pantalla: teléfono, computadora, Canvas, redes sociales—más se marchita mi cuerpo como una flor que ha sido cortada de su tallo y ni siquiera tiene la gracia de un vaso de agua. Y la verdad de esta experiencia se encuentra en algunas palabras que su generación ha agregado al lenguaje. Doomscrolling, ¿se apuntan? ¿O tal vez les interesa pudrirse un rato? Más allá de las palabras y las rimas, la poesía es una forma de estar DENTRO del mundo, de modo que, aun cuando nos sentimos desafiados, dolidos o rotos, estamos presentes ante el regalo de estar vivos. Sentir el aliento en el cuerpo y esa fuerza animadora, esa VIDA, esa sensación de estar AQUÍ, AHORA, con cada momento que se nos ha dado. El nombre de mi hija, Zoey, significa ‘vida’. La zoología es el estudio de la vida. He estado absorto en Zoey-ología durante casi 21 años. Pero la VIDA. Es lo que deseo para ustedes. La capacidad de estar DENTRO de sus vidas de tal manera que su naturaleza frágil y finita afle el filo de sus ganas de vivir. Joie de vivre es lo que deseo para ustedes. Sobremesa, digo yo. O, como se suele decir en mis clases de poesía, Carpe Diem. Su vida no es algo dado, sino un regalo que va de paso. Los adultos en Silicon Valley están haciendo un esfuerzo por crear algoritmos y aplicaciones que nos mantienen distraídos de lo realmente importante y significativo. Tienen la opción de ayudarlos con esta tarea al darles más de aquella cosa tan preciosa, su atención. Seguramente así les mantienen el salario de seis cifras. O pueden estarse aquí y ahora. Como este presente momento, ahora. Con sus familiares y amigos y compañeros de clase y profesores. Pueden estar aquí, ahora, es decir, despiertos y conscientes. No solo de la familia humana, sino de todo lo que conforma el gran despliegue. Quiero decir, la sensación de la brisa en la piel y el aroma penetrante de la artemisa. El pío de las golondrinas y otros pájaros que se encuentran más allá de estos muros ahora mismo, dando de comer a sus polluelos. Los salmones Chinook y otros peces ahora mismo en las aguas de los ríos Wenatchee y Columbia que nos rodean. Los escarabajos de junio, los líquenes, los musgos y los hongos. E incluso esas rocas, esos pedruscos, debajo de los cuales viven las marmotas. Todo aquello. Y todos aquellos. Y nosotros. Sí. Aquí. Ahora. Gracias y felicitaciones.

CLASS RESPONSE

BY DIANA MORALES-CRUZ, ASWVC SENATE PRESIDENT

Good evening to the Class of 2026, staff, faculty, Board of Trustees, family, and friends. My name is Diana Morales-Cruz, and I have had the honor of serving as your Associated Student Body President at Wenatchee Valley College.

When I was 17, I sat in my counselor's office with my mom beside me and was told I wasn't going to graduate on time because I was failing all of my classes. I sat there surrounded by photos of students who had already graduated and piles of student folders. I remember feeling disappointed in myself, but also knowing my mom felt that disappointment, too.

I finished that year doing online school, scared and unsure of what my future would look like.

When I came to Wenatchee Valley College, I had a plan: work hard, get my degree, and transfer as quickly as possible.

But this place changed me.

Like many students here, I came to college knowing what I wanted but not really knowing how to get there. Being first-generation sometimes feels like that, like trying to solve a puzzle without knowing what the picture on the box looked like.

Through MESA, I found advising, mentorship, community, and people who believed in me before I fully believed in myself. We studied for long hours, laughed, stressed, shed a tear or two, and somehow still persevered.

Then, during my second-to-last semester, my plan completely fell apart. After years of working toward a future I thought I had figured out, I found out I couldn't apply to the program I thought I was meant for because I had not completed my prerequisites in time.

I questioned everything. I wondered if all my hard work had been for nothing. But deep down, part of me wondered if this was God trying to tell me something.

At MESA, I met a friend I never would have known otherwise. We came from completely different walks of life yet somehow understood each other. One day, I told him how scared I was of not reaching my full potential. I talked about my mom, how smart, hardworking, and capable she is, and how seeing her sacrifices made me want to create a life with more opportunities for myself and my family.

But deep down, I was terrified that I would spend my whole life wanting more while being too scared to go after it.

Then he looked at me and said: "You're going to waste your

potential if you keep living in fear."

It wasn't cruel. It was honest.

I asked him how he could be so sure of himself. How could he chase becoming a doctor, knowing how difficult it is? What if he failed? What if everything fell apart?

And he said: "I put my gamble on me."

That conversation changed my life because I realized fear had been making my choices for me. Fear of failing.

Fear of leaving.

Fear of wanting more for myself.

For so long, I thought being scared meant I shouldn't do something. But now I realize being scared usually means you're standing at the edge of something important.

Over the past year, I've stopped letting fear decide my future. And honestly, if you've asked me what I'm doing next, you've probably still heard me say something like, "Uhm... I'm still figuring parts of it out."

I wonder how it's possible to know everything at 18 and nothing at 21.

But what I do know is this: I don't want to spend my life doing something I don't love. No more "what if I can't?"

No more "what if I fail?"

Because if I'm going to put my gamble on something, it's going to be me.

As I wrap up, quiero darle muchas gracias a mi familia por siempre creer en mí y por toda la comida que me ha hecho mi mamá. I love you guys.

Thank you to the staff and faculty for everything you do for students. It does not go unnoticed.

Thank you to Rosana for every conversation, every piece of advice, and every moment of patience while I tried to figure out my path.

Thank you to my senate team for all the memories, laughs, stress, late nights, and growth we shared together this year. You all meant more to me than you probably realize.

Thank you to MESA and every person I met through the program. Some of you truly changed my life.

Thank you to the people who welcomed me with kindness and support throughout this journey. Your care meant more than you know.

Thank you to Iris and Rob for all the work you do behind the scenes to support students and make this campus feel like home.

RESPUESTA DE LA CLASE

DE DIANA MORALES-CRUZ PRESIDENTA DEL SENADO DE ASWVC

Buenas tardes a la clase de 2026, el personal, el profesorado, la junta directiva, las familias y los amigos. Mi nombre es Diana Morales-Cruz y he tenido el honor de servir como su presidenta del senado estudiantil de Wenatchee Valley College.

Cuando tenía 17 años, estaba sentada en la oficina de mi consejera con mi mamá a mi lado cuando me enteré de que no iba a graduarme a tiempo porque estaba reprobando todos mis cursos. Me senté allí, rodeada de fotos de estudiantes ya graduados y montones de carpetas estudiantiles. Recuerdo sentirme decepcionada conmigo misma, pero también sabía que mi mamá lo sentía, también.

Terminé aquel año haciendo cursos en línea, asustada e incierta de cómo se vería mi futuro.

Cuando me vine a Wenatchee Valley College, tenía un plan: trabajar duro, obtener mi título, y transferirme tan pronto como fuera posible.

Pero este lugar me cambió.

Como muchos estudiantes aquí, llegué al colegio sabiendo lo que quería, pero sin saber cómo alcanzarlo. A veces se siente así ser la primera en tu familia de asistir al colegio, como hacer un rompecabezas sin saber cómo era la imagen en la caja.

A través del programa MESA, encontré asesoría, comunidad y las personas que creían en mí antes de que creyera en mí misma. Estudiamos durante largas horas, nos reímos, nos estresamos, derramamos alguna que otra lágrima y, de alguna manera, seguimos adelante.

Luego, durante mi penúltimo trimestre, mi plan se vino abajo. Después de años de haber trabajado para llegar a un futuro que creía tener planeado, me enteré de que no podía solicitar admisión al programa para el cual me veía destinada porque no había completado todos los requisitos previos a tiempo.

Lo cuestioné todo. Me preguntaba si todo mi esfuerzo

And lastly, thank you to God for every lesson, every struggle, and every moment that brought me here.

Class of 2026, if I can leave you with one thing today, it's this: Be scared and do it anyway.

Thank you.

había servido de nada. Pero en el fondo, una parte de mí preguntaba si Dios quisiera decirme algo.

En MESA, conocí a un amigo que no hubiera conocido de otra manera. Teníamos historias de vida sumamente diferentes, sin embargo, nos entendíamos. Un día, le dije lo asustada que estaba de no alcanzar mi pleno potencial. Le hablé de mi mamá y lo inteligente, trabajadora y capaz que es, y ver sus sacrificios me hizo querer crear una vida con más oportunidades para mí misma y mi familia.

Pero en el fondo, temía pasarme toda la vida deseando más sin atreverme a ir por ello.

Entonces me miró y me dijo: "Vas a desperdiciar tu potencial si sigues viviendo bajo el miedo".

No fue cruel. Fue honesto.

Le pregunté cómo era que podía estar tan seguro de sí mismo. ¿Cómo podría proponerse ser doctor sabiendo lo difícil que es? ¿Y si fracasaba? ¿Y si todo se venía abajo?

Y me dijo: "Aposté por mí mismo".

Esa conversación me cambió la vida porque me di cuenta de que mis miedos estaban tomando las decisiones por mí.

El miedo a fallar.

El miedo a salir.

El miedo a querer más para mí misma.

Por tanto tiempo, pensaba que tener miedo significaba que no debería hacer nada. Pero ahora me doy cuenta de que tener miedo usualmente significa que estás al borde de algo importante.

Durante el último año, he dejado de permitir que el miedo me decida el futuro. Y honestamente, si me han preguntado qué voy a hacer después, es probable que les haya respondido "Bueno... todavía está por determinar".

Me pregunto cómo es posible que uno sepa todo a la edad de 18 y nada a los 21 años.

Pero lo que sí sé es esto: no quiero pasarme toda la vida haciendo algo que no me encante.

Se acabó el '¿Y si no puedo?'

Se acabó el '¿Y si fallo?'

Porque si voy a apostar por algo, va a ser por mí misma.

Para terminar, quiero darle muchas gracias a mi familia por siempre creer en mí y por toda la comida que me ha hecho mi mamá. Los amo.

Gracias a los profesores y el personal por todo lo que hacen por los estudiantes. No pasa desapercibido.

Gracias a Rosana por cada conversación, consejo y momento de paciencia mientras intentaba encontrar mi camino.

Gracias a mi equipo del senado estudiantil por todos los recuerdos, la risa, el estrés, las noches largas y el crecimiento que compartimos juntos este año. Cada uno de ustedes significa más para mí de lo que puedan imaginar.

Gracias a MESA y todas las personas que conocí en el programa. Algunos de ustedes me cambiaron la vida de verdad.

Gracias a las personas que me dieron una bienvenida amigable y con apoyo a lo largo de esta travesía. Su cariño significó más de lo que se imaginan.

Gracias a Iris y Rob por todo el esfuerzo invisible que hacen por apoyar a los estudiantes y hacer que este campus se sienta como nuestro hogar.

Y, por último, gracias a Dios por cada lección, cada obstáculo y cada momento que me trajo hasta aquí.

Clase de 2026, si les puedo dejar con algo hoy día, es esto: Tengan miedo, y háganlo de todas maneras.

Gracias.

OUTSTANDING FACULTY OF THE YEAR SPEECH

BY CHRISTA CACCIATA, WVC FACULTY

I have spent the last 20+ years of my life teaching math and have developed an affinity for numbers.

Today is a day of celebration and to celebrate your achievements, I'd like to use my time today to share some of my favorite numbers with you.

14.14% of you have found a more affordable pathway toward earning your bachelor's degree by first earning your associate degree here at WVC. 14% of you will soon transfer to university and begin the next stage in your education.

78. Associate's degree recipients have a strong presence in the labor market. 78.1% of recent associate's degree recipients find employment after graduation.

33. Having earned your associate's degree, you are now 33% less likely to be unemployed compared to those who never enrolled in college.

18. Those holding an associate's degree (that's you) will earn, on average, 18% more than high school graduates. That's roughly an additional \$9,000 per year, which, over the course of a 20-25 year career, equates to roughly \$200,000 in additional earnings. Not a bad return on investment!

In short, you are more likely to be employed, earn more money at your job, own a home, vote, and volunteer in your communities when compared to those who have not gone to college.

So, you have invested your time, your money, your blood, sweat, and tears – hopefully not blood – to do this hard thing, which will benefit you for the rest of your life. And make no mistake, college is hard; it hurts. In fact, all growth hurts.

Little kids' joints ache as they experience growing pains.

Working out at the gym growing muscles, that hurts.

Being in the classroom growing your knowledge and skill set, that hurts.

God forbid you go through something that forces you to grow emotionally, that always hurts.

The point being this: you've already done a hard thing, but the hard isn't over. Whether you are headed to the workforce or headed to a four-year, you will continue to grow. Growth will continue to be hard. Growth will continue to hurt. And that's ok. That's life.

So, as you leave our small campus behind, moving on to the next stage of your life and whatever challenges that may bring, I have three quotes from noted philosophers that I'd like to leave you with:

"The opposite of anxiety isn't calm; it's trust."

- You may know this person from snarky comments they made about your mom; this quote came from a random Redditor

"Being brave isn't the absence of fear. Being brave is having that fear but finding a way through it."

-You may know him from TV as a British survivalist, Bear Grylls

"I can redefine failure as 'feedback' rather than a setback.

Framing failure as a natural occurrence that is part of learning makes people more comfortable with mistakes and from there, they can learn."

This one is my favorite philosopher, a former student; you may know her as a classmate you had the privilege of working with, Stephanie Gonzalez

By earning this degree, you have already proven that you CAN do hard things, break barriers, overcome setbacks.

I ask that you continue to trust in yourself and in your abilities. Trust that, even if you're afraid, ESPECIALLY if you're afraid, you have the courage to push through and do the hard thing. And when things don't work out like you initially planned, TRUST that it's not a mark of your failure; it's simply a natural step in the process. If you can learn from your mistakes, regroup, and give it another go, there is nothing you cannot achieve. Huge congratulations to you all!

OUTSTANDING FACULTY OF THE YEAR SPEECH

BY CHRISTA CACCIATA, WVC FACULTY

He dedicado los últimos más de 20 años de mi vida enseñando matemáticas y he desarrollado una afinidad por los números. Hoy es un día de celebración y para celebrar sus logros, me gustaría aprovechar el tiempo para compartir algunos de mis números favoritos con ustedes.

14. El 14% de ustedes han encontrado una opción más económica de obtener su licenciatura al obtener primero su título de asociado en WVC. El 14% de ustedes pronto se transferirán a la universidad y comenzarán la próxima etapa de su educación.

78. Los que obtienen un título de asociado tienen una fuerte presencia en el mercado laboral. El 78.1% de los que han obtenido recientemente un título de asociado encuentra un empleo después de graduarse.

33. Habiendo obtenido sus títulos de asociado, ahora tienen un 33% menos de probabilidad de quedarse sin trabajo en comparación con los que nunca se inscribieron en el colegio.

18. Aquellos que han obtenido un título de asociado (son ustedes) ganarán en promedio un 18% más que los que solo se graduaron de la preparatoria. Es aproximadamente \$9000 más al año, lo que, a lo largo de una carrera que dura 20-25 años, equivale a unos \$200,000 en ingresos adicionales. ¡No es un mal rendimiento de la inversión!

En resumen, tienen más probabilidad de tener un empleo, ganar más dinero en sus trabajos, tener casa propia, votar, y hacer voluntariado en sus comunidades en comparación con los que no han asistido al colegio.

Así pues, han invertido su tiempo y su dinero, con sudor, lágrimas y sacrificio (ojalá no sangre) para lograr esto, lo que les va a beneficiar a lo largo de sus vidas. Y que quede claro, el colegio es difícil; duele. De hecho, todo tipo de crecimiento duele.

Las articulaciones de los niños les duelen al crecer

Entrenar en el gimnasio para desarrollar los músculos, eso duele

Estar en el salón de clase para desarrollar su conocimiento y capacidades, eso duele

Que Dios no lo permita, pero si pasan por algo que les hace crecer emocionalmente, eso siempre duele

El punto es este: ya han hecho algo difícil, pero lo difícil no termina aquí. Ya sea que entren a la fuerza laboral o vayan a una universidad de cuatro años, seguirán creciendo. El crecimiento seguirá siendo difícil. El crecimiento les va a seguir doliendo. Y está bien. Así es la vida.

Ahora que se despiden de nuestro pequeño campus y entran al siguiente capítulo de sus vidas y los desafíos que conlleva, les tengo tres citas de filósofos famosos que quiero compartir con ustedes:

“El opuesto de la ansiedad no es la calma; es la confianza”. Tal vez conozcan a esta persona por sus comentarios sarcásticos sobre sus mamás; esta cita viene de un usuario de Reddit aleatorio

“Ser valiente no es la ausencia del miedo. Ser valiente es tener el miedo, pero buscar el camino para atravesarlo”. Tal vez lo conozcan de la televisión, el experto en supervivencia británico, Bear Grylls

“Puedo redefinir los fallos como ‘retroalimentación’ en vez de contratiempos. Ver los fallos como algo que ocurre naturalmente que forma parte del aprendizaje hace que las personas se sientan más cómodas con sus errores y de ahí, pueden aprender”.

Esta es mi filósofa favorita, una exalumna; tal vez la conozcan como una compañera de clase con quien han tenido el privilegio de trabajar, Stephanie Gonzalez

Al obtener este título, ya han demostrado que SÍ PUEDEN enfrentar los retos, derrumbar barreras, superar obstáculos.

Les pido que confíen en sí mismos y en sus habilidades. Confíen en que, aun si tienen miedo, ESPECIALMENTE si tienen miedo, tienen la valentía de perseverar y hacer lo difícil. Y cuando las cosas no salen como las tenían planeadas, CONFÍEN en que no es evidencia de sus fallos; es una parte natural del proceso. Si pueden aprender de sus errores, reagruparse e intentarlo de nuevo, no hay nada que no puedan lograr. ¡Unas felicitaciones enormes a todos ustedes!