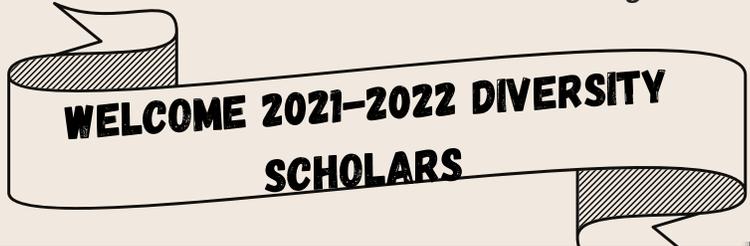




News & updates from Multicultural Student Services & Programs



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Aaron Juarez, Moshe Martinez, & Raul Sagrero

MSSP welcomed the 2021-2022 Diversity and David S. Brody Memorial Scholars to Western Oregon University with a dinner on October 13th, 2021. The Diversity Scholar Program provides academic and personal support, that helps them succeed as a WOU student. It also provides opportunities to explore and participate in activities that allow scholars to demonstrate their knowledge and appreciation of diversity and inclusion.

**THANK YOU!**



*Thank You to all who supported!*

Don't miss out on buying your own. To order please call MSSP at 503-838-8737 or email MSU at msu@wou.edu!

**Deadline to make an order:** Wednesday, December 1st

**Pick up your wreath on,** Tuesday, December 7th

**Pick up location:** Willamette Room (WUC) from 9 am - 4 pm

**MSU  
HOLIDAY WREATH  
SALE**

## New WOU Staff Spotlight

We want to introduce some new multicultural staff at WOU that work with many of our MSSP Students in their respective offices.



**Name:** Orlando Gaeta

**Title:** Educational Advisor, Student Enrichment Program

**BIO:** Home town: Portland, OR. Degrees: BA in Criminology and Minor in Chicano Latino Studies, MS in Educational Leadership and Policy (Student Services) from Portland State University.

**Fun Fact:** My family comes from Zacatecas, Mexico which I have visited on a yearly basis since the 4th grade.

**Piece of Advice:** Attend office hours.

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**Name:** Justin Sunada,

**Title:** Assistant Director, Experiential Learning, Service Learning & Career Development

**BIO:** I was born and raised on the Big Island of Hawaii and graduated with my Bachelor's degree in Business from WOU. I then worked my way up the corporate ladder in the Employment/Recruiting/Human Resources world for 6 years before coming back to WOU. Fun fact: Even though I'm from Hawaii, I love surfing the cold Oregon coastal waters!

**Piece of Advice:** Getting outside of your comfort zone pays off way more than most people realize. Try new things, meet new people, make new friends, experience new things!

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**Name:** Mayra Osorio Rodriguez

**Title:** HR Support Specialist, Human Resources

**BIO:** I come from Walla Walla Valley in northeast Oregon, pursuing major in Criminal Justice. I am a Dreamer and only one in my family that is. I am a non traditional, first generation, and dreamer.

**Piece of Advice:** College is not easy or else everyone would do it, college is also not available for everyone. So good job for being here and great job for choosing your battles wisely.

## New WOU Staff Spotlight

We want to introduce some new multicultural staff at WOU that work with many of our MSSP Students in their respective offices.

Welcome!



**Name:** Ann Marie Matagi

**Title:** Admissions Counselor, Admissions

**BIO:** I am from Medford, Or. I graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Social Science with a focus in Criminal Justice, minor in Sociology. A fun fact about me, is that I am a sneaker head and love to collect awesome socks, I also love to run and catch the sunset.

**Piece of Advice:** Get involved on campus, use your resources, if you don't know always ask questions, and have fun finding yourself in college.

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**Name:** Ivan Acosta

**Title:** Assistant Director of Campus Visits and Events, Admissions

**BIO:** Ivan is the new Assistant Director, Campus Visits & Events, in the Office of Admissions. Raised in Estacada, OR, Ivan pursued his undergraduate studies at Western Oregon University and received two degrees: a Bachelor of Arts in Social Science, humanities minor and Bachelor of Arts in Spanish. After graduating from Western, Ivan attended Portland State University's Graduate School of Education and earned a Master of Science degree in Educational Leadership & Policy. One fun fact about Ivan is that in 2020-2021, he visited 15 National Parks with his partner.

**Piece of Advice:** Never be shy or afraid to ask questions or seek help!

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**Name:** Daniel Lopez

**Title:** Campus Public Safety Officer Campus Public Safety

**BIO:** I am from Dallas, Oregon. Graduated WOU 2021 with a Criminal Justice Degree. Fun fact: I love going to Jaripeos (rodeos).

**Piece of Advice:** Get out of your comfort zone. College is the time to try new things and gain new experiences.

# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: Ilce Aguirre



## 1. Your major while at WOU

BA in Social Science

## 2. Your minor while at WOU.

Criminal Justice and Health

## 3. Hometown?

Woodburn, OR

## 4. What is your favorite memory at WOU?

Time spent with Multicultural Student Union both as a club member and exec team.

## 5. What was the most challenging aspect of college?

Remaining focused and time management were the most challenging.

## 6. What was the most exciting aspect of college?

Learning to become an independent adult and meeting new people whose goals and dreams were similar to mine.

## 7. What resources did you use to be successful at WOU?

I utilized a variety of resources available at WOU. These included services from the Multicultural Student Services and Programs, Student Enrichment Program, The Writing Center, and tutors from various class subjects. My biggest support was Anna Hernandez-Hunter who day to day inspired me to become that Latina professional I aspired to become.

## 8. Any word of advice for underrepresented students coming to WOU?

Live the present moment and do not hold back. Take on the opportunities and adventures that come your way as this will help shape who you will become later in life. Use the resources that are put in place to help students like you, you are not alone. Never forget that we are the future and know that we are paving the way for the younger generation.

## 9. Life after WOU?

After graduating from WOU in 2008, I was accepted into the School of Social Worker Program at Portland State University earning a masters degree in 2011.

## 10. Your current employment?

I am a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and work as a Care Manager at Salem Hospital. I have been working for Salem Hospital for the past 8 years. I have spent the last 5 years on the Oncology Unit providing support to patients and families as they navigate their disease.

## 11. How has your experience and education at WOU shaped your life after college?

The experiences that I encountered at WOU helped shape who I became in my professional career. Anna Hernandez-Hunter provided mentorship for me during and after graduation and now I am paying forward by mentoring new social workers at Salem Hospital.

## 12. Your favorite quote

Life's challenges are not supposed to paralyze you; they're supposed to help you discover who you are.

-Bernice Johnson Reagon

## 13. What brings you joy?

Spending time with my husband and two daughters ages 6 and 3.

# MCR: Fall Gathering/Social Highlights



# MSU: Dia De Los Muertos Event Highlights



Día de los Muertos (The Day of the Dead ) is a time for the spirit of the deceased to return home and visit loved ones, feast on their favorite foods and listen to their favorite music. MSU honors our deceased with ofrendas, or offerings, which may consist of photographs, bread, other foods, toys, and other symbolic offerings.

# MSSP Mission

The office of Multicultural Student Services & Programs is committed to the recruitment, retention and graduation of historically underrepresented & underserved populations by providing educational opportunities and outstanding programming for ethnically and culturally diverse students. MSSP strives to enrich the undergraduate experience and foster a supportive environment for students of color to live, learn and grow as active members of the Western Oregon University community and as individuals.

# Quote

"We should indeed keep calm in the face of difference, and live our lives in a state of inclusion and wonder at the diversity of humanity"

-F. George Takei

## Ingredients:

- \* 4 cups milk (for instant pot 2 1/2 cups milk)
- \* 1/4 cup water (avoids burning)
- \* 1/4 cup rice (basmati or any rice)
- \* 6-8 tablespoons organic sugar
- \* 1/2 teaspoon cardamom powder or elaichi
- \* 10 cashews or blanched almonds chopped
- \* 10 pistachios chopped (optional)
- \* 2 tablespoon sweet raisins (optional)
- \* 1 tablespoon ghee (optional for frying nuts)
- 1 pinch saffron or 1 tsp edible rose water (optional)

# KHEER RECIPE (RICE KHEER)

## How to make:

1. Preparation: was rice a few times & drain completely. Chop the nuts & set aside.
2. Pour 1/4 cup water to a large heavy bottom pot. This prevents kheer from getting scorched at the bottom
3. Pour milk & bring to a boil.
4. Keep stirring the milk often to prevent the fats .
5. Add drained rice & begin to cook on a medium flame until the rice is soft, completely cooked & lightly mushy.
6. Keep stirring often to prevent the milk getting scorched at the bottom.
7. Stir in the sugar & continue to cook until the rice kheer turns thick.
8. Keep Stirring often in between to prevent burning.
9. Add cardamom powder, rose water and nuts. Stir & continue to cook for 5 min
10. Turn off when the rice kheer reaches a desired consistency, slightly runny.
11. Kheer thickens once it cools down. Garnish rice kheer with more nuts & Serve
12. **Optional:** Most people don't like ghee in their kheer. You can aslo Skip this. Heat 1 tbsp ghee in a small pan & fry the cashews until golden.
13. Then add raisin & stir until they turn plump. Remove them and set aside



# Academic Calendar Highlights

## December

- 3rd-Classes end
- 3rd- Annual Holiday Tree Lighting & Parade
- 6th-Finals begin
- 6th- Wolf it down
- 13th-Winter Break starts
- 24th-27th Holiday obsessed: Campus is closed
- 25th- Christmas
- 31st- New Years Eve: Campus is closed

## January

- 1st- New Years
- 3rd- Classes begin
- 14th- Last day to add a class
- 17th- MLK: Campus is closed
- 22nd- Winter Preview Day
- 28th- Last day to drop a class without grade

## Feburary

- 3rd- Winter Term Tuition Deadline
- 18th- Last day to drop a class with a "W" grade
- 21st- Spring term registration begins

Happy Holidays!

