

WMU HESA Newsletter

The Western Michigan University
Higher Education & Student Affairs
(HESA) Leadership newsletter:
updating you on what our HESA
Broncos are up to in Kalamazoo
and around the world!



Fall 2017 EDLD 6791 seminar students showing their Bronco pride.

Come see what's inside!

2018 Events

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2018 HESA EVENTS

Our HESA students stay busy year-round. Below are some of the events we have been working on for our current and future students!



Field Experience Panel January 2018

Sarah Hagen, Nicole Haase, Lizzy Machado, Jonathan Pulley, Walter Malone

6th Annual Job Search Jump Start Conference

HMSA was proud to welcome over 25 volunteers (many alumni of HESA) for JSJS held on February 2. The student volunteer coordinators: Jonathan Pulley, Lauren Mingo, Arie Armbruster, and Katelyn Caragher did an outstanding job. Students participated in mock interviews, resume critiques, and networking.

HESA Interview Days Team 2018

The HESA Interview Days team has been hard at work preparing for the next cohort of students: this year's team of volunteers include: Arie Armbruster, Val Horwath, Kylie Schultz, Mary Cantor, Casey Dornhecker, and Ayumi Shinoda.



Fall 2017 EDLD 6545 College Administration and Environments visit to Kellogg Community College (KCC).

The class enjoyed an all-day visit hosted by Roderick Simmons, Admissions Coordinator (and HESA student) and WMU ELRT alums Dr. Kay Keck, Vice President of Student and Community Services, and Educational Leadership Alumni and President, Mark O'Connell.

Fall 2017 Cohort

With 27 students coming from 10+ states and one international country, we are excited to have our largest cohort to date! So far, our students have attended conferences, submitted and been accepted for national conference presentations, conducted research projects with faculty, and volunteered for HESA projects and programs.

Fall 2017 EDLD 6791 Seminar in Educational Leadership hosted special guests Emeritus president Dr. and Mrs. Dunn visit the class!



Congratulations Dr. Talbot!

Thanks to the many students, faculty, and alumni who submitted letters of nomination because Dr. Donna Talbot has been selected as a recipient of the [WMU Excellence in Diversity Award](#). On Friday, February 23 she will be recognized at the Spring Convocation for her over 30-year career emphasizing a commitment to diversity and inclusion as a teacher, scholar, practitioner, and advocate. Dr. Talbot's positive impact spans the local, institutional, state, national, and international level. We are proud of you and excited for you Dr. Talbot!

HESA 2017 Alumni Update

Graduates have obtained positions in some of the following functional areas and universities and more.

Functional Areas: Admissions, residence life, academic advisor, sustainability, student life, and more.

Where: Western Michigan University, Oakland University, Kellogg Community College, University of Oregon, Lawrence University, University of Wisconsin- Madison & LaPlatte, Michigan State University, and more.

WMU HESA Alumni Chapter

If you would like to join our team, email elrt-hesa@wmich.edu for more details.



HESA Alumni-Where are you now?

We are continually compiling and updating our HESA alumni list. E-mail your updated contact information and/or position title to elrt-hesa@wmich.edu. We also invite you to tell us about your recent accomplishments, publications, and presentations.

Please share any opportunities that you would like HESA alumni, students, and prospective students to know about.

1st-year Western Michigan University HESA Student Profiles



Anthony Perez



Elyse Hogan



Arezo Sediqi

Hometown: San Antonio, Texas

Education: Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, University of Northern Iowa

Graduate Assistantship: Hall Director for Residence Life in Davis Hall

Please describe your job description and responsibilities:

As an Assistant Hall Director (AHD), I am responsible for monitoring my building as well as the other two in the complex, supervising around 15 resident assistants, 2 living community assistants, serving on a departmental committee, advising a hall government, and other tasks as assigned when they pop up.

What were you doing before entering the HESA Program?

Before the HESA program I was completing my undergraduate degree in psychology. I was intending on pursuing a master's degree in industrial-organizational psychology. I was also working as a resident assistant in one of the residence halls.

Why did you select WMU?

I selected Western Michigan University because of their dedication to diversity and inclusion, but also because of their reflective practitioner model that is used in the HESA program. I like to reflect and evaluate where I have been and where I am heading.

What would you like to do with your HESA degree post-graduation?

Post-graduation I would like to continue in housing and residence life, or get a position in admissions or academic advising. I want to be able to assist students on their journey through college and help them pursue their dreams and passions when I recognize that they may be doing something for the sake of others and not themselves.

Hometown: Bay City, Michigan

Education: Bachelor of Arts in English and Spanish from WMU

Graduate Assistantship: Seita Scholars Program

Please describe your job description and responsibilities:

I assist with a wide variety of things in the office. I help with planning and implementing events, designing invitations and flyers, as well as other communication efforts like our student newsletter. I also help with tracking some data and have even had a chance to assist with some research efforts. The most exciting part of my position is working with students to implement a new peer mentoring program for first-year Seita Scholars.

What were you doing before entering the HESA Program?

Before entering the HESA Program, I served two years as an AmeriCorps member through the Michigan College Access Network. I served two high schools in southwest Michigan by working with students to apply to colleges and for financial aid. I also worked on building college-going culture in the schools and communities.

What did you choose higher education?

While serving as a college adviser for the last two years, I realized how much I love working directly with students and helping them overcome barriers and learn how to solve complex problems. I also felt very fulfilled knowing that what I spent 8 hours of each day doing was having a positive impact in the world, so I looked into ways to continue doing that. I found that higher education would allow me to do work that aligns with many of my passions and values.

What would you like to do with your HESA degree post-graduation?

After graduation, I aspire to work towards improving graduation and retention rates among first-generation college students. I hope to do this by finding a position within academic success, service-learning, or leadership programs.

Hometown: Afghanistan

Education: Educational Leadership: HESA

Position: Full-time student, Fulbright Scholar

What were you doing before entering the HESA Program?

I was working as an adjunct instructor at Balkh University. I was also working with Lincoln Learning Center at Balkh which was supported by the US-embassy Kabul. In addition, I worked as an English Language instructor in Access Micro Scholarship Program which was supported by the US-Embassy Kabul. I was running volunteer students' clubs in Lincoln Learning Center and Balkh University campus.

What made you choose to go into higher education?

I was teaching at Balkh University in Afghanistan as an adjunct instructor and I was noticing that creative instructors were always challenged by the authorities from implementing student engagement programs and activities. Afghanistan universities are just places where you learn in the classroom. There are no extracurricular activities opportunities for students and there is a poor quality of services for students. I decided to continue my education in higher education leadership because it is the leaders that make decisions and their decisions can impact wider range of people. I loved teaching, but I thought if I do an MA in TESOL, I might be a good teacher but the difference I would make would be limited to a classroom. As a leader my decisions will impact a larger number positively.

What would you like to do with your HESA degree post-graduation?

I would like to take this experience and pursue my Ph.D. to shape the education in my country differently and make a positive difference in education system of my country.

HESA Alumni Spotlight:

Sean Pepin 2009

Director of Student Development,
Student Services
West Valley College, Saratoga, CA

Sean currently serves as Chair of Graduation Committee, Chair of Creating a Vibrant and Engaging Campus Community Task Force, and President-Elect of California Community College Student Affairs Association. He also oversees student life and the student center, which include Student Government, Student Activities, Clubs and Organizations, Facility Operations, Veterans Resource Center, and Conduct. In addition, Sean teaches a course called Introduction to Leadership.



What do you enjoy the most about your current job? I have and continue to be most excited about working directly with students as a core component of my work. As my role has slowly shifted, I have become increasingly passionate about institutional change that focuses on creating inclusive and engaging campus communities. My greatest joy has been the strategic and thoughtful work required to create change. For me, my position is perfectly balanced between students walking into my office to share their stories and having the responsibility to lead institutional change to better the student experience.

How did your HESA educational and co-curricular experiences prepare you for this profession? My time in the WMU HESA program helped me to build the theoretical and content knowledge needed to be intentional and thoughtful in my work. In all honesty, I use student development theory and practical knowledge gained from those classes on a weekly basis. Whether I am working with a student in crisis or conducting training on social justice, I rely heavily on my experiences in my master's courses.

Additionally, one of the most important experiences I had while in my program was working on a research project with Dr. Talbot. For me, research asked me to think differently about the world and to focus wholly on the process. That experience helped me ready myself for my PhD, has guided me in projects in my work place, and prepared me to collect, analyze, and present stories of our work with students and colleagues.

I knew I wanted a PhD when I started my master's degree. I love learning and knew that my ultimate goal was to get a doctorate. WMU's master's program prepared me well for my PhD. From the CAS standard-based curriculum to the research and internship opportunities, I felt like I had a very strong starting point for my PhD.

How has continuing your education led you to your current role? My PhD experience was transformational. For me, the PhD journey was more an internal journey than an external one. The questions I asked myself were challenging for me. They included: what does it mean to do social justice, how did I want to engage in the profession, and ultimately who I wanted to be as a person. Those questions, and the subsequent answers, redefined my goals and aspirations. They assisted me with narrowing the type of institution I wanted to work at, the kinds of roles I wanted to take, and the way I wanted to engage in my work. This is all to say, it helped me have an authentic relationship with my work and to express that in my daily practice in student affairs. We most often get a job because of fit. When you know yourself deeply, you can more easily discern the role and college that will be the right fit for you. That helped me get the position I have now.

What are the top lessons you learned during your first year as a student affairs professional? The two best things I learned early in my career was to build trust and do good work. While there are a ton of other qualities that help people stand out, those two were most beneficial for me. When you start a new job, everyone looks to see how you are going to act and who you are going to be in your role. When you start with building trust, by having good integrity and consistency, people will know where they stand and how to work with you. In terms of the work you do, I would say do your best. The quality of your work, right when you start, will often put you on a trajectory of either being given more responsibility and novel projects or not.

As a HESA alumni what would you share? What advice would you share with current students? Make the most of your experience while you are there. I too often focused on where I wanted to be, and not where I was. It is rare to find the amazing space provided to think, reflect, and discuss issues that you get in a classroom. I currently teach a course, which allows me to re-enter that space on a regular basis. I would also advise students to make your experience work for you. I was able to do research, co-teach a class, and work on an internationally focused project while in master's program. Those experiences helped shape me as a professional and find those areas I am most deeply passionate about.

WMU Welcomes President Edward Montgomery

We are proud to welcome Western Michigan University's ninth president, Dr. Edward B. Montgomery. He is a nationally known labor economist who has a 35-plus-year academic career and played major roles in both the Clinton and Obama administrations. He has held faculty positions at Carnegie Mellon and Michigan State universities as well as the University of Maryland, winning teaching awards some five times over the years. He most recently came from Georgetown University where he served as dean and professor of economics at the university's McCourt School of Public Policy since 2010.



On November 7, 2017, HESA had the honor of hosting President Montgomery for an exclusive question and answer lecture event. Dr. Ramona Lewis had the opportunity to ask WMU's ninth president questions that HESA students had about his past educational and professional experiences, his plan for the university, and his thoughts on pressing issues. Dr. Montgomery regularly comments on making Western Michigan University a "University of choice". Excerpts from Dr. Montgomery's 2017 State of the University 2017 are below.



By becoming the institution of choice for students, we would see more students from Michigan and the region want to come here. By becoming the institution of choice, we would enhance our ability to attract and retain diverse and high-quality faculty and staff. By becoming the institution of choice, we would make WMU the preferred higher education partner for businesses, schools, governments and community organizations. There is no reason we should not be among the top 100 public universities in the country. There is no reason why "the big three" in this state is not UM, MSU and WMU.

This all starts with our current students and alumni. Be proud of where you spend your undergraduate, graduate, or doctoral years and strive to do your best and carry that WMU brand with you everywhere you go. We want other students to know what a memorable experience you are had and are having on campus and the multitude of experiences you have the opportunity to take advantage of.

---Dr. Edward Montgomery,

We thank Dr. Montgomery for speaking to our students and remember, it's ALWAYS a great day to be a Bronco!





HESA December 2017 Networking Celebration

Where we recognized Lizzy Machado as the recipient of the 2017 Paul and Phyllis Griffeth Scholarship for outstanding promise as a student affairs professional.

Giving to HESA

If you are interested in making a contribution to [HESA](#) you can use the online form (mywmu.com/HESAFund). Fill in the designation of your choice using the “Special instructions” box. The three funds designated to HESA are:

Higher Education and Student Affairs (HESA) Leadership Development Fund. Supports a variety of programs, activities, and services that advance and/or support the goals of HESA concentration, including, but not limited to: student assistance, programs and services that support students, and community or professional development.

Paul and Phyllis Griffeth Student Affairs Scholarship. Scholarship for a M.A. student in HESA who has demonstrated commitment to the profession as exhibited by: maintaining good academic standing and demonstrating potential for success in the profession as exhibited by participating in student affairs activities or work and attending professional student affairs conferences.

Global Engagement Scholarship. This scholarship is in recognition of the increased and growing need for graduates who are globally and culturally aware. The Global Engagement Fund was developed by department faculty in the support of graduate students in the department of Educational Leadership, Research and Technology who demonstrate a commitment to global engagement in higher education.

Questions about giving? Feel free to contact ramona.lewis@wmich.edu, the HESA Faculty Coordinator or donna.talbot@wmich.edu, ELRT Department Chair

Special thanks to Casey Dornhecker, HESA GA, and Ayumi Shinoda for development of the newsletter. Also, we thank everyone who contributed!

If you would like to be highlighted in a future newsletter, contact elrt-hesa@wmich.edu.



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