

(JoJo) Richard Maestas

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Diverse and dedicated student leader with extensive experience in advocacy, public engagement, and organizational leadership. Passionate about fostering inclusivity, accessibility, and equity within higher education and community spaces. First-generation, low-income student from Southern California raised by a single mother, Mexican and Native American gay male with aspirations.

Experience

JANUARY 2025 – PRESENT

Public Relation Specialist | The Kenworthy

Designed content materials to draw community engagement, community outreach for local nonprofit theater. Enhanced organizations community events and retention approach.

JANUARY 2024 – PRESENT

Employee | *Regency Pullman A Retirement and Assisted Living Community*

Served as a server, dishwasher, and line cook. Streamlined kitchen operations, improving service efficiency and customer satisfaction.

JANUARY 2023 – PRESENT

University Recreation Board Member | Washington State University

Created and overseen a diverse range of programs and services for WSU students. Advised board on strategic directions on current and foreseeable challenges.

MARCH 2025

Showcase for Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities Participant | Washington State University

Award winner, recognized as a top presenter for outstanding faculty-mentored in undergraduate research proposal category. Selected among students across all WSU campuses.

AUGUST 2023 – MAY 2025

Service & Activity Committee Board Member | Washington State University

Attended scheduled meetings, evaluating all of WSU Service & Activity Organizations. Allocated students tuition funds to organizations based on evaluation. Brought diverse and marginalized perspective to the board as a voting member.

Education

AUGUST 2021- PRESENT

BA in Public Relations & Sociology, Minor in Human Resource Management | Washington State University

MAY 2023 – MAY 2024

Assonated Students Deputy Director of Diversity, Inclusion, and Veteran Affairs | Washington State University

Worked for the inclusiveness, safety, and accessibility. Maintained equitable outreach to underrepresented student programming organizations. Served as a representative and an advocate for students. Hosted the ASWSU Multicultural Conference Fundraiser's planning and execution raising a large sum of money for WSU Retention.

AUGUST 2022 – MAY 2023

Multicultural Student Services Mentor | Washington State University

Student Mentor to students in underrepresented communities who were in their first year of higher education. Pillar of resources and navigation.

JULY 2022 – AUGUST 2022

Motivating Innovation and Research Achievement Instructor | Washington State University

Instructor to five students of underrepresented communities. Taught a course in "Making Dreams Come True" where it exercised pivotal life skills needed to navigate higher education.

APRIL 2022 – MAY 2023

Assonated students Uncertified Senator | Washington State University

Attended Committee meetings authoring/co-authoring a variety of resolutions and bylaws as well as sponsored items of legislation. Conducted retention weekly office hours, served in the Internal and Engagement Committee and served as Vice-President of the budget council, allocating funds to umbrella organizations.