

Liliana Caracoza Lopez's Biography

Liliana Caracoza Lopez is a Student Assistance Professional (SAP) who works at Puget Sound Educational Service District in Washington State. She serves as the SAP for Cascade Middle School and Evergreen High School in White Center area.

Liliana believes in the power of education, mental health, substance use prevention, coalition building and representation of the Latinx community. This is done by collaborating with educational professionals, community organizations, implementing evidence-based strategies and creating racial equity within our educational system. She creates leadership and educational opportunities for youth to minimize ATOD use on students, families and the community.

She has created multiple support groups at both of her schools, where she aims to empower youth by increasing the understanding of ATOD prevention and social justice. Increasing communication and encouraging social support during COVID-19 and beyond. She has raised student's attendance and minimized ATOD use among the youth population in both schools.

She is currently a Substance Use Disorder Professional Trainee and is certified in Project Success and Life Skills curriculums. During the 2019-2020 academic year, Liliana reached more than 250 students by teaching both curriculums.

Liliana holds a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice, focusing on social justice and law and policy from the University of Washington. She just completed the 2021 Latinx Emerging Leaders in Prevention Fellowship in partnership with CADCA (Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America) and the NHL- PTTC (National Hispanic/Latino Prevention Technology Transfer Center).

Lessons Learned:

The Latinx Emerging Leaders in Prevention Fellowship has been an open the door to new opportunities for Liliana. Participants learned from key leaders in Prevention and meeting individuals who have paved the way for the next generation of Latinx professionals in the ever-changing field of prevention and intervention. Learning not only prevention science but ways that we can make our communities more equitable. Demonstrating that if we have a dream of how we want our communities to function, we have the power to make it a reality. She is thankful to all the fellows, Yimaris and Colber, CADCA, and the NHL-PTTC, for the opportunity to be part of this fellowship. Additionally, she's looking forward to seeing the next generation of fellows and practicing all the lessons learned during my time in the Latinx Emerging Leaders in Prevention Fellowship.