

THE 2025



WASHINGTON YOUTH LEADERSHIP SEMINAR

LOOKBOOK



ARE YOU READY TO

IGNITE

YOUR LEADERSHIP JOURNEY?



VIRTUAL EXPLORER

CAN'T BE IN DC? WE'RE BRINGING D.C.
TO YOU WITH THE YEAR'S VIRTUAL WYLS!



WYLS 2025 SCHEDULE



WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2025

Workshop	Location	Time
Welcome & Orientation	Zoom	6:30 pm – 7:15 pm
Preparing the Future Workforce: Personal Statement & Resume Development	Zoom	7:20 pm – 8:15 pm
Career Exploration: Navigating Degree & Career Choices	Zoom	8:20 pm – 9:20 pm
Student/Virtual Coach Debrief Session	Zoom	9:25 pm – 9:40 pm

DAY 1

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2025

Workshop	Location	Time
Participant Log in	Zoom	6:30 pm – 6:35 pm
Leadership 101: Practical Strategies for Self-Empowerment	Zoom	6:35 pm – 7:40 pm
Organizational Leadership: Making Your Mark as a Young Leader	Zoom	7:45 pm – 8:40 pm
Student/Virtual Coach Debrief Session	Zoom	8:45 pm – 9:00 pm

DAY 2

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2025

Workshop	Location	Time
Participant Log in	Zoom	12:30 pm – 12:40 pm
Advocacy 101: Effective Advocacy for Student Leaders	Zoom	12:40 pm – 1:35 pm
Leadership Forum: Leading with Purpose and Passion	Zoom	1:40 pm – 2:40 pm
Youth Social Sets: Your Voice is your Strength	Zoom	2:45 pm – 3:45 pm
Participant Acknowledgements: Closing Remarks and Raffle	Zoom	3:50 pm – 4:35 pm

DAY 3





to the 2025 Washington Youth Leadership Seminar!

This year marks the 28th edition of WYLS and return to a fully virtual (and engaging!) format to build on the esteemed legacy of WYLS and our broader educational and leadership programming.

Over the past five decades, LNEC has been committed to empowering the next generation of lifelong learners and leaders. This could not have been done without the support of our sponsors, community, educators, efforts of LULAC councils.

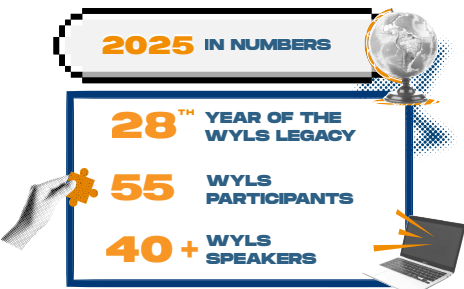


In this year's virtual seminar, we encourage all participants to have their cameras on, be present, and actively engage with our distinguished speakers and WYLS coaches. Washington D.C. has long served as a foundation for changemakers to solve our most pressing problems.

Now it's your turn to virtually "step in" on Zoom and engage with established leaders to ignite your own leadership journey!

We look forward to seeing all the endeavors you will accomplish.

- LNEC National Office





PREPARING THE FUTURE WORKFORCE: PERSONAL STATEMENT & RESUME DEVELOPMENT



Wednesday, October 1

7:20 pm – 8:15 pm

Location: Zoom (Online)

Applying to college and considering career options can often be overwhelming. Your personal statement is your opportunity to demonstrate your enthusiasm, potential and suitability to the college you are applying to. It can be daunting and seem like just a few words are standing between you and your college goal. High school students need resumes just as much as college students do.

From getting into college to obtaining a part-time job or internship, a resume is essential because college recruiters and employers want to see a brief summary of your abilities, education, and experiences. Participants will learn how to create an effective personal statement and resume as well as understand their strengths, skills, and interests.

Speaker:

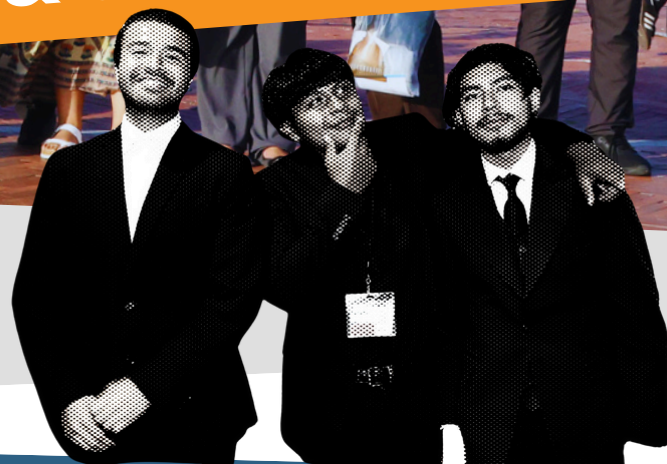
- Ruben Garcia, Guidance Counselor, Albuquerque Public School

CAREER EXPLORATION: NAVIGATING DEGREE & CAREER CHOICES

Wednesday, October 1

8:20 pm – 9:20 pm EST

Location: Zoom (Online)



Making a career plan is a matter of matching your skills and interests to an occupation to create a career goal, and then deciding the steps you need to take to reach that goal. This workshop is designed to inspire participants to explore different career options via virtual round table discussions with individuals from each field.

Discussions will be led and facilitated by guest speakers, designating time to share their personal and professional experiences in their respective fields, and provide participants with the opportunity to directly engage on any questions they may have. Students will be assigned to a group based on their interests and/or plans of study.

Speakers:

- Isabel Anaya, Associate Principal, Northside ISD, Cable Elementary
- Dr. Ashley Diaz, DNP, APRN, PMHNP-BC, Mindful Health
- Anne Garcia, LICSW, Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker, DC Government
- Jeffrey Gray, Military Officer/Police Officer, Army National Guard/Lawrence Police Department
- Erin Kiernan, Recruiter, NBCUniversal
- Heain Lee, Partner, Brousseau & Lee PLLC
- Cibely Leon, Strategy and Consulting Analyst, Accenture
- Marilyn Nevy Cruz, Chief Capital Trial Investigator, Federal Death Penalty Unit for The District of Nevada, U.S. Courts
- Diego Norri, Executive Director, Principal Technical Program Manager, JPMorgan Chase - Global Technology Enterprise Architecture
- Joseph Praydis, Fire Protection Field Engineer, Amazon Web Services (AWS)
- Eva Rivera, RN, MBA, CCM, Sedgwick
- Armando L. Salinas, Jr., Chief Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, Porter County Prosecutor's Office
- Magin Sanchez, Senior Policy Analyst, Higher Education, UnidosUS Monica Silva, Clinical Social Worker, Private Practice, Community Social Work



LEADERSHIP 101 PRACTICAL STRATEGIES FOR SELF IMPROVEMENT



Thursday, October 2, 2025
6:35 pm – 7:40 pm EST
Location: Zoom (Online)

Preparing to become a leader requires a unique set of skills to successfully lead in today’s ever changing world. Leaders must effectively manage, balance tasks and execute efficiently. This workshop for young leaders is a dynamic and interactive session designed to empower emerging changemakers with essential leadership skills.

Participants will explore topics such as effective communication, teamwork, decision-making, and ethical leadership. The workshop fosters confidence, critical thinking, and a growth mindset, preparing young leaders to inspire and positively impact their communities.

Speakers:

- Rudy Lopez, Director of Executive Leadership Programs, California Department of Justice



ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP: MAKING YOUR MARK AS A YOUNG LEADER



Thursday, October 2

7:45 pm – 8:40 pm EST

Location: Zoom (Online)

Applying to college and considering career options can often be overwhelming. Your personal statement is your opportunity to demonstrate your enthusiasm, potential and suitability to the college you are applying to. It can be daunting and seem like just a few words are standing between you and your college goal.

From getting into college to obtaining a part-time job or internship, a resume is essential because college recruiters and employers want to see a brief summary of your abilities, education, and experiences. Participants will learn how to create an effective personal statement and resume as well as understand their strengths, skills, and interests.

Speakers:

- Felipe Casas, Student Support Coordinator, George Mason University First Gen+ Center
- Santos Gutierrez, Senior Advisor, Office of Student Life, Palo Alto College – San Antonio
- Kathryn Madriz, President, Sigma Lambda Gamma Psi Chapter, Indiana University
- Samantha-Celeste Paulino Vargas, President, Intercultural Greek Collective, American University
- Elias Ramirez, President, Hispanic Business Network of Galveston County
- Galilea Sejas-Machado, National Program Coordinator, LULAC National Educational Service Centers, Inc. (LNEC)
- Brenda Vara, President; Justice, University of New Mexico Chapter of the New Mexico Dream Team; UNM Mock Trial

ADVOCACY 101: EFFECTIVE ADVOCACY FOR STUDENT LEADERS

Friday, October 3

12:40 pm – 1:35 pm EST

Location: Zoom (Online)



Through advocacy, individuals are empowered to affect social change. The purpose of this workshop is to encourage youth to initiate grassroots efforts that will influence and strengthen their communities. Speakers will provide guidance and advice about how to advocate effectively, who to communicate with, and what tools can be utilized to achieve advocacy goals.

This session for young leaders equips participants with the knowledge and tools to effectively champion causes they care about. Participants will learn how to raise their voices and drive meaningful change. The workshop encourages confidence, critical awareness, and civic engagement, empowering youth to become impactful advocates in their communities and beyond.

Speakers:

- Nicholas Crookston, Partnerships & Advocacy Associate, Voto Latino
- Jeff Cruz, Senior Advisor, Social Security Works
- Dr. Carmen Orozco-Acosta, PhD Public Policy, Advocacy, and Non-Profit Professional
- Carla Pierre Rynerson, Director of Government Affairs, RABEN
- Jason Resendez, President & CEO, National Alliance for Caregiving

LEADERSHIP FORUM

LEADING WITH PURPOSE AND PASSION



Friday, October 3

1:40 pm – 2:40 pm EST

Location: Zoom (Online)

As part of the Washington Youth Leadership Seminar (WYLS), participants will have an opportunity to engage with panelists representing government, non-profit and corporate organizations, as they share their experiences and backgrounds that led them to leadership positions. The goal is to connect emerging young leaders with seasoned leadership that have a wealth of experience and perspectives to share. This panel discussion will reveal resources and tools to equip our future leaders to effect change in their local communities.

Speakers:

- Celeste Carrasco, Director of Public Affairs, AT&T
- Rosa Diaz, Chief of Staff, Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute
- D'Juan Rudolph, National Manager, Business & Community Engagement, Toyota Motor North America
- Deborah Santiago, Co-Founder & CEO, Excelencia in Education
- Justin Stratton, Talent Acquisition Manager, NBCUniversal
- Brent Wilkes, Senior Vice President of Institutional Development, Hispanic Federation

YOUTH SOCIAL SETS: YOUR VOICE IS YOUR STRENGTH

Friday, October 3, 2025

2:45 pm – 3:45 pm EST

Location: Zoom (Online)



Participants will have an opportunity to discuss social issues important to them and/or happening in their communities. The focus will be to create a safe speaking space with participants willing to be open to a diverse set of views.

Participants will gather in groups based on select topics to engage and share personal perspectives with one another. These conversations will be led by young professional leaders that will lead and prompt discussion around these youth-related issues, and will work to create a dialogue for lively discussions on the topics provided.

Speakers:

- Khenia Haro-Perez, Virginia State Manager, National Latina Institute for Reproductive Justice
- Dr. Patricia Santiago Landers, Psychologist (School & Clinical), Associate Professor, Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico
- Karla López-Owens, Government Attorney and Legislative Advocate, Indiana Latino Democratic Caucus
- Dr. Carmen Orozco-Acosta, PhD Public Policy, Advocacy, and Non-Profit Professional
- Alaina Ruffin, Paralegal, Human Rights Program, American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)
- Christian Ramos, Organizing Fellow, Lead Locally, House of Delegates, District 22

WHAT'S YOUR LEADERSHIP LOOK?


 AMERICA
 INCARE

OPEN TO ALL WYLS
2025 LEADERS!

55 RISING LEADERS. 55 STORIES.

REFLECT. & IGNITE WHAT'S NEXT.

This is your chance to visually define leadership—on your terms. Curate your story in a collage or lookbook format, capturing your influences, inspirations, and personal journey.

01

design

CREATE

Brainstorm and create your collage or lookbook with Canva or other preferred platform.

UNDERSTAND

Read and understand contest guidelines (i.e. having at least one photo of self) and timeline [HERE](#).

02

craft your collage

DEFINE

A meaningful moment or core value shaping your leadership. Who or what inspired you?

HIGHLIGHT IMPACT

One authentic example of how you've positively influenced your community, school, or family.

VISION

How will you use what you learn at WYLS to spark change in your community or yourself?

03

apply

CHOOSE ONE OF TWO OPTIONS

If applying on [social media](#), tag @L NES C and post with hashtag #MyLeadershipLook and #WYLS2025. Your profile must be public.

If no social media or you prefer to apply directly, all are welcome to submit via the [dropbox](#) below.

dates & prizes

- Opens: Oct 1, 12PM ET
- Closes: Oct 3, 2PM ET
- Winners announced: Oct 3 during WYLS closing

- 🏆 1st: Garmin Forerunner 55
- 🏆 2nd: FujiFilm Mini 12
- 🏆 3rd: Labubu Doll (Pop Mart Blind Box)

APPLICATIONS NOW CLOSED

Check out
our winners!

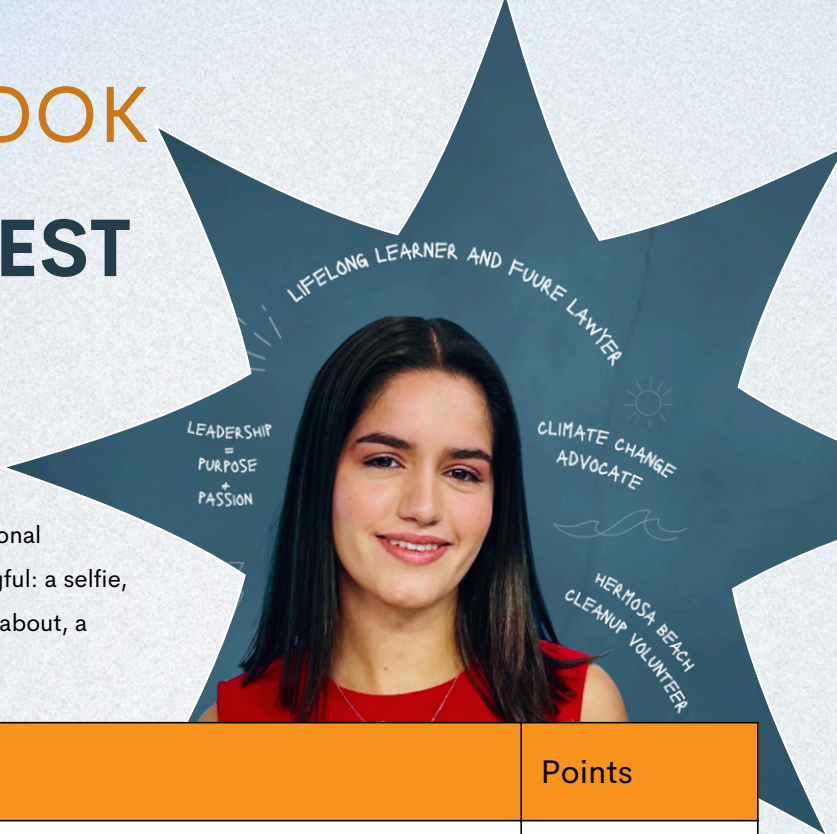


MY LEADERSHIP LOOK

WYLS 2025 CONTEST RULES + RUBRIC

What does leadership look like to you?

Create a visual collage or “lookbook page” that brings your personal leadership story to life! Use photos, images, or anything meaningful: a selfie, a team moment, a snapshot of your community, a place you care about, a mentor, a quote, or even a fictional character who inspires you.



Criteria	Weight	Description	Points
Storytelling & Clarity	40%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Relevance to leadership, community, and personal growth- Depth and clarity in sharing your leadership journey visually and/or in writing.- Connection to WYLS mission and values.	0 – 40
Visual Creativity	30%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Originality in how images, objects, and layout are chosen and arranged.- Creative, thoughtful use of photos, symbols, and design to tell your story- Collage is visually engaging and purposeful.	0 – 30
Reflection & Relevance	20%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Insightfulness and honesty in your written responses or collage text.- How well your answers to the three leadership questions show personal growth and understanding.- Alignment with the spirit of WYLS.	0 – 20
Inspiration & Impact	10%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Entry sparks inspiration or new thinking about leadership.- Emotional resonance: does your collage and story motivate or connect with others?- Ability to communicate your unique voice as a leader.	0 – 10
TOTAL	100%		0-100

2025 MY LEADERSHIP LOOK WYLS CONTEST WINNERS

Gabriella Alhona

My parents and my little sister are my biggest inspirations and are the most important people in my life!

My time at WYLS was amazing and will help me lead the groups in my school and communicate with my peers.

A real time where I've shown leadership is being a captain on my girls soccer and wrestling teams and secretary of National Honors society.

Me and my Best friend Representing Upward bound!

My leadership style is lifting others up. I believe the best leaders are people who focus on helping others and lifting others up in your leadership, so in my leadership positions I do my best to help my peers reach their goals and uplift them.

1ST Gabriella Alhona

PRIZES

1st Place

GPS Running Watch
Smartwatch - Garmin Forerunner 55

2nd Place

Instant Camera
Fuji Film Mini 12 instant Camera

3rd Place

Labubu Doll
Pop Mart The Monsters Blind Box V1

2ND Graciela Garcia

Immigration attorney inspires my leadership and advocacy, particularly for Latinos, and involvement in LULAC.

Proud Latina

I will take home the skills and connections from WYLS to better serve others by expanding youth councils, strengthening my LULAC chapter, and supporting students in accessing the opportunities I have had.

For me, leadership means creating opportunities for others, which is why I ran for Texas LULAC State President to expand youth councils and empower more students to have a voice.

"The greatest leader is not necessarily the one who does the greatest things. They are the ones who get the people to do the greatest things."

I started a LULAC chapter at my school after seeing the need for a space to celebrate our culture, and I led the effort to build a Día de los Muertos altar for the community.

Día de los Muertos!

Gloria

section leader

rural leader

future vet

team leader

to lead people, walk beside them

community volunteer

3RD Gloria Lopez

WHAT'S YOUR LEADERSHIP LOOK?

A SNAPSHOT OF THIS YEAR'S SUBMISSIONS!



That's me!

My Leadership

I would consider myself a very influential and extroverted person. With this knowledge, I tend to approach leadership by working and/or helping people. I'm also very creative, so one of the many things I do to interact with people is through social media such as Instagram or my YouTube channel.

How I make a Difference

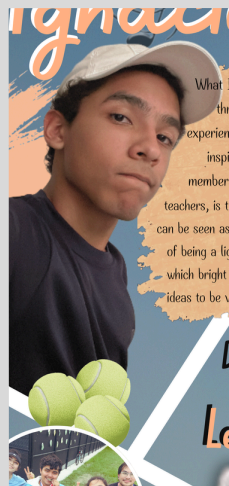
If I hope to learn first hand how to make an impact in my community from people who have done it themselves, I want to be connected with my community and help the people in it grow!

My Experiences Impact

I am a class officer for my Senior class of 2026. In our Junior year we had to plan for prom, so one of my tasks was to post on social media to get people to buy tickets. I got the other class officers together so we could make trendy videos to get people excited for prom.

"Stay soft. Don't let the thing that have hurt you turn you into a person you are not."

new_1image



What I had learned through my experiences with really inspiring family members, friends, and teachers, is that Leadership can be seen as the opportunity of being a light for others, which bright and help their ideas to be valued.

Empathy
+
Determination
=
Leadership

new_2image

ANGIE A LEADERSHIP

NOYOLA

Showing the pride I have for my culture and being unafraid to show it off!

Art is an outlet for me and I hope to inspire others with my paintings!

Understanding Community Commitment Purpose Courage Empathy

Being president of my school's LULAC. It took a lot of struggle to step into this position even though I was a member for 2 years. I'm happy to say it's been such a great year so far!

My sisters give me the strength to never give up, always be kind!

new_3image



Gabriella Althona

My time at WYLS was amazing. I believe the best leader is one who can lead the groups in my community and communicate with them.

A real time where I've seen my own leadership is being a captain on my girls soccer and wrestling teams and secretary of National Honors society.

Me and my Best Friend Howard bound

My leadership style is to believe the best leader is one who can focus on helping other people up in your leadership positions. I want my peers reach their goals.

new_4image





Eva Cortes

AIR HEADS XTREMES

HIGH POTENTIAL

CE

My leadership style is to believe the best leader is one who can focus on helping other people up in your leadership positions. I want my peers reach their goals.



Leadership

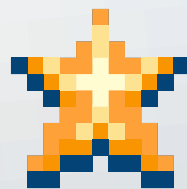
DEDICATION

Me volunteering in my community to help with the environment.

JULIA

My leadership style is to believe the best leader is one who can focus on helping other people up in your leadership positions. I want my peers reach their goals.

MEET THE WYLS STUDENTS



This year, the Washington Youth Leadership Seminar (WYLS) proudly welcomes **55** exceptional students from across the United States and Puerto Rico!

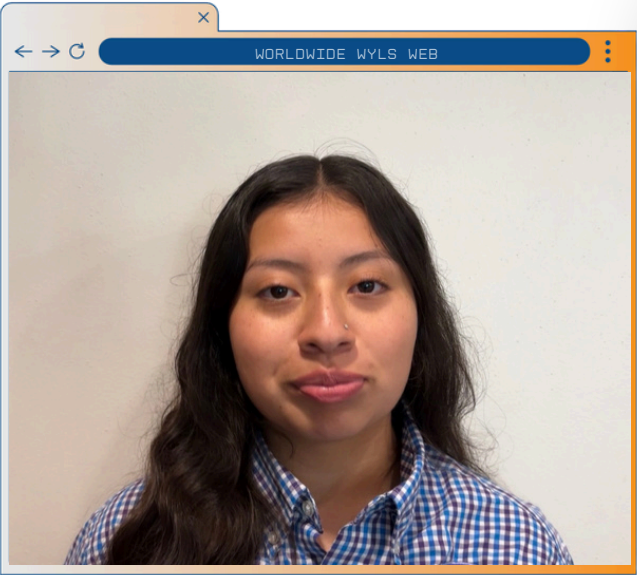
What inspires these students to join WYLS?

These emerging leaders were selected through a rigorous process that emphasizes lifelong service to their respective communities. As such, they are ideal candidates to learn from leading professionals in STEM, politics, education, and other fields.

Throughout the seminar, they will receive guidance from their designated WYLS Coaches, who provide support and the encouragement for students to openly engage with the program's core elements.

In fact, many participants have been so inspired WYLS that they return as future speakers. This is a shining example of leadership is not just created, but ignited through active learning!





Princesa Aguirre

Hometown: Dallas , Texas

Dream Dinner Guest: I'd choose to have dinner with Leonardo da Vinci to explore his unique blend of artistic genius and scientific curiosity.

What are three things people can ask you about? Sports, jewelry, arts and crafts

Email: aguirreprincesa76@gmail.com

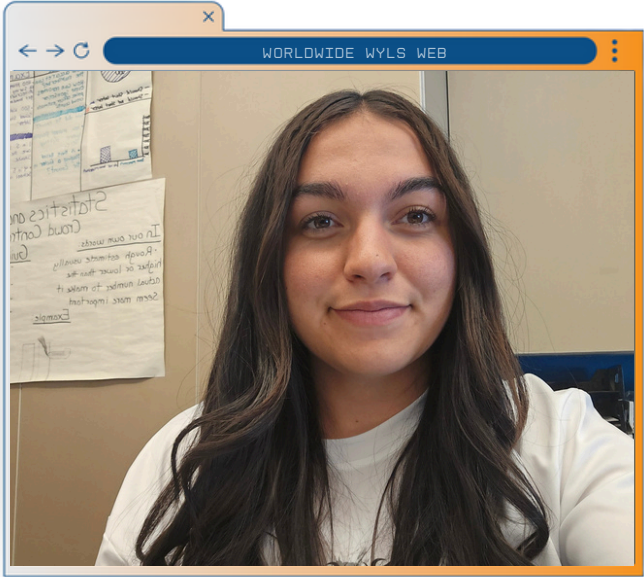
Gabriella Alhona

Hometown: Albuquerque, NM

Dream Dinner Guest: I would choose to have dinner with Michelangelo to talk about all his art and the ideas he had that went into them.

What are three things people can ask you about? Wrestling, NFL, music

Email: alhonag2008@gmail.com



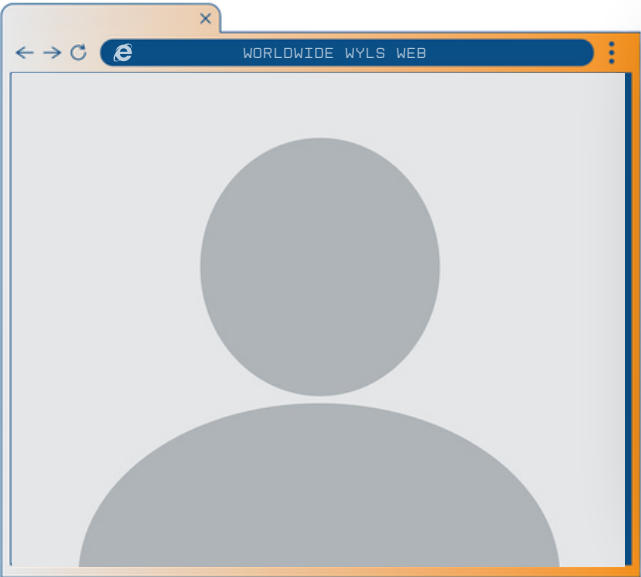
Roxana Alvarenga

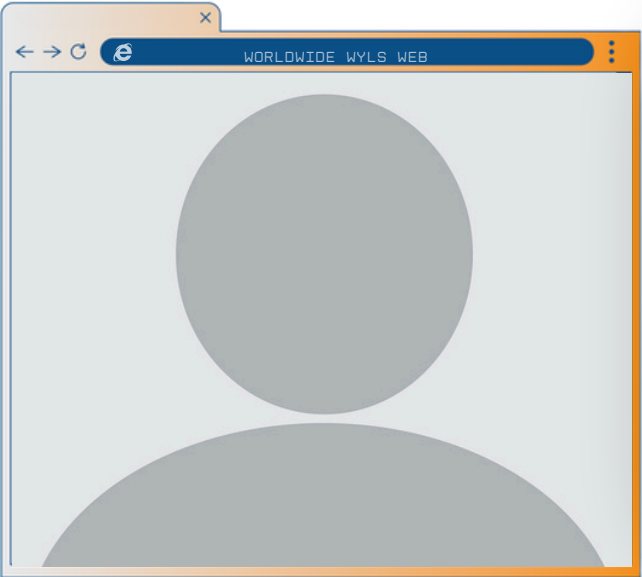
Hometown: Washington, DC

Dream Dinner Guest:

What are three things people can ask you about?

Email: roxana.ayala2@icloud.com





Alberto Angel

Hometown: Albuquerque, NM

Dream Dinner Guest:

What are three things people can ask you about?

Email: albertoangel0814@gmail.com

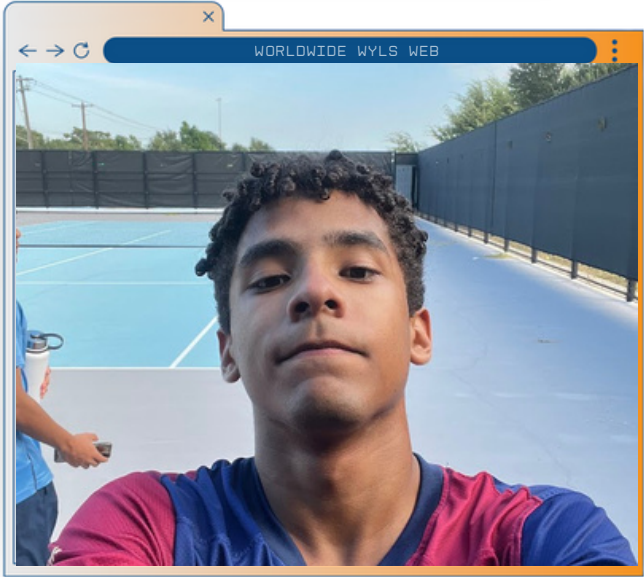
Jose Enrique Araujo

Hometown: Austin, TX

Dream Dinner Guest: Roger Federer. I really like he's humility and how he understand the real world problems by his reflections as a tennis player.

What are three things people can ask you about? Best tennis player, Venezuelan slang, soccer leagues

Email: jignacioar15@gmail.com



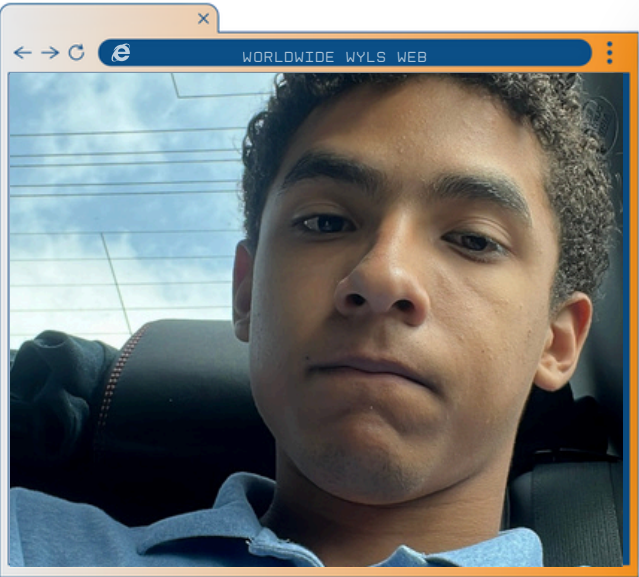
Jose Ignacio Araujo

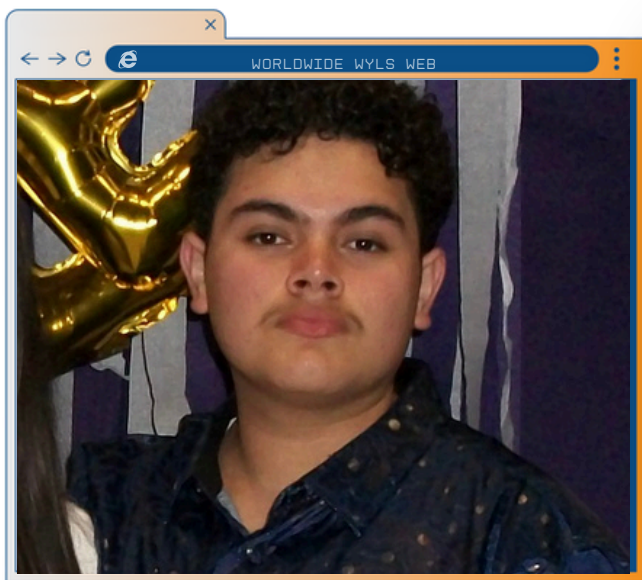
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What are three things people can ask you about?
Best tennis player, Venezuelan slang, soccer leagues

Email: araujomilo5jr@gmail.com





Arnulfo Arredondo Garrido

Hometown: Vancouver, WA

Dream Dinner Guest: Adam Sandler. I want to ask him how he started and would he is so down to earth.

What are three things people can ask you about? how to become more involved in your community

Email: arnulfoarredondoajag@gmail.com

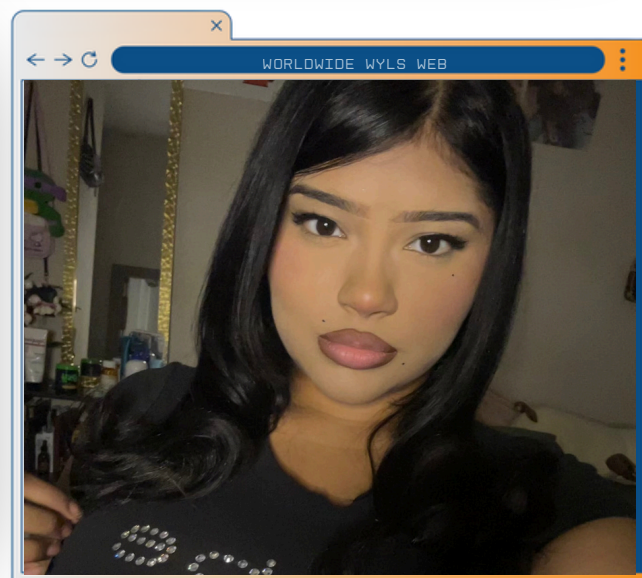
Angielena Barron Argueta

Hometown: Grand Prairie, TX

Dream Dinner Guest: Maria from The Marias, her music has inspired and her voice warms my heart every time I hear it. I would like to ask her about her songwriting process and what made her pursue music.

What are three things people can ask you about? music, art, and movies.

Email: angie1argueta@gmail.com



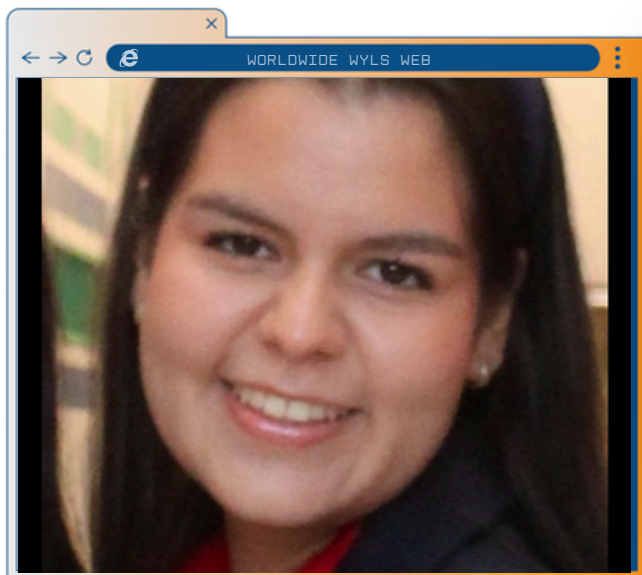
Fatima Briseno

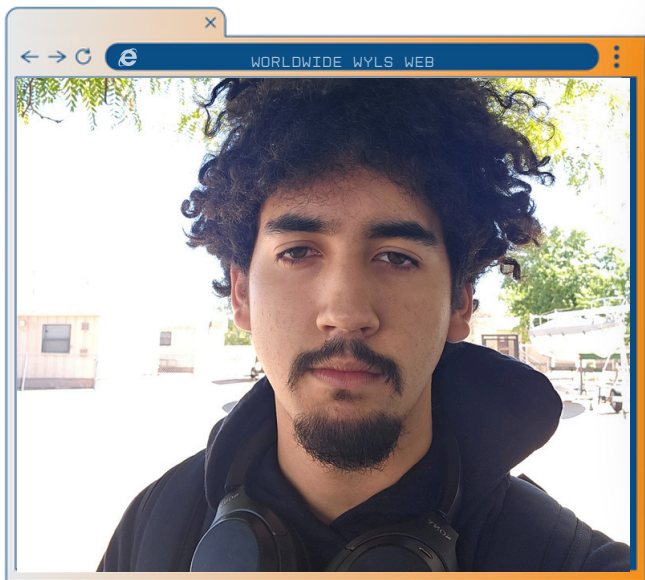
Hometown: Dallas, TX

Dream Dinner Guest: Tara Westover, the author of Educated, because I would love to hear how she overcame growing up in an isolated, strict household to pursue education and transform her life.

What are three things people can ask you about? Bead embroidery, Taylor Swift, The Summer I Turned Pretty

Email: brisenofatima08@gmail.com





Matthew Camden

Hometown: Albuquerque, NM

Dream Dinner Guest: Barack Obama, as he was a fairly decent president, and it would be interesting to hear his opinions on the modern state of politics.

What are three things people can ask you about? Favorite food, dream job, favorite music genre

Email: mathewcamden8@gmail.com

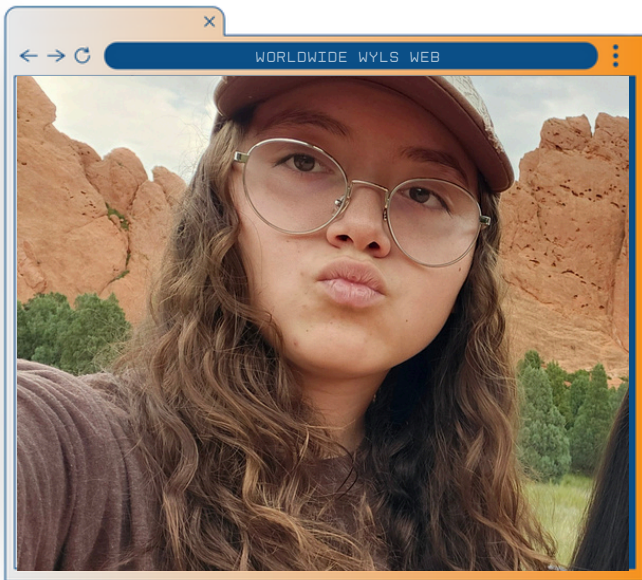
Alison Carbajal

Hometown: Fountain, CO

Dream Dinner Guest: I'd choose some world leaders. I could ask direct questions about hidden information and secrecy present in world history.

What are three things people can ask you about? Sightseeing in Colorado Springs, making chilaquiles, crocheting

Email: acarbajal2727@gmail.com



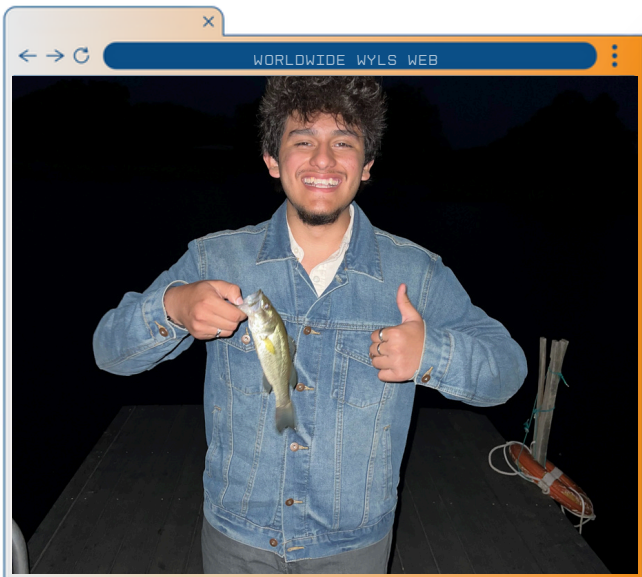
Erik Carrillo Gallardo

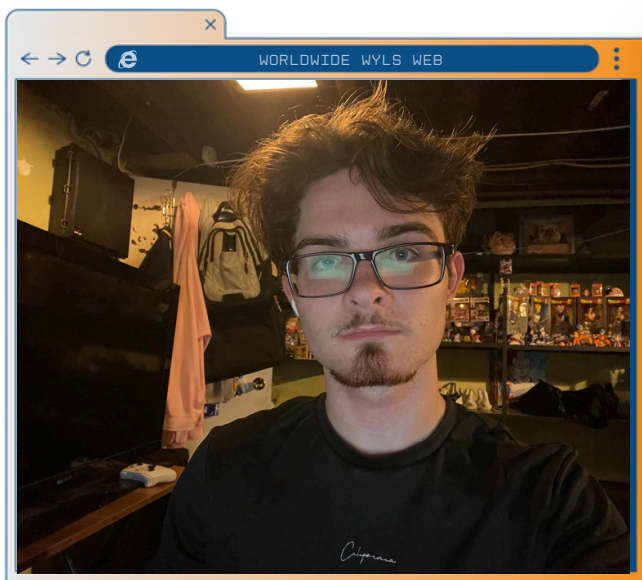
Hometown: Sanger, TX

Dream Dinner Guest: Benito Juarez, to talk about about how he became president during such a crucial time in discrimination against indigenous people and people with indigenous background and his thoughts on the current stage of the world.

What are three things people can ask you about? Best sunsets, Asian food, Denton celebrations

Email: rogallardor37@gmail.com





Riley Cimini

Hometown: Philadelphia, PA

Dream Dinner Guest: Leonardo da Vinci. The reason being that I want to know his thought process behind his art, his inventions, his whole life and how it turned out.

What are three things people can ask you about? Music taste, free time, interests

Email: rcimini@studentmba.org

Anthony Contreras Moreno

Hometown: El Cajon, California

Dream Dinner Guest: I would have dinner with Ellen Ochoa because she graduated from the same school I am in currently and she seems like a amazing person to talk with.

What are three things people can ask you about? best places to thrift in San Diego, bands are playing this week, best food in San Diego

Email: xanthonyxcontrerasx@gmail.com



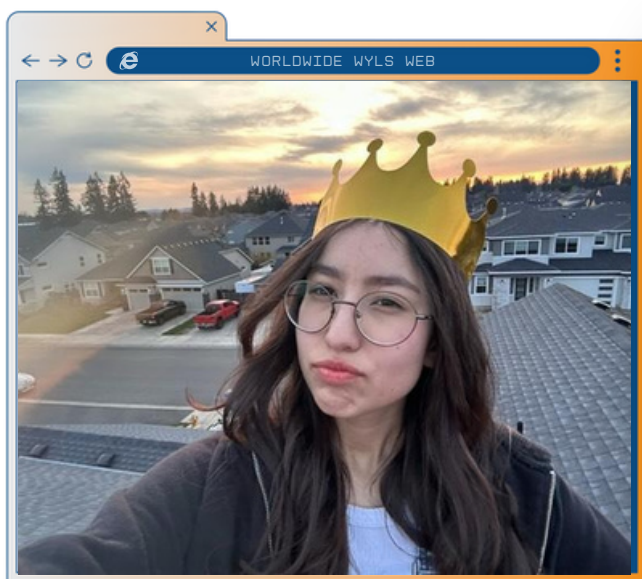
Eva Cortes

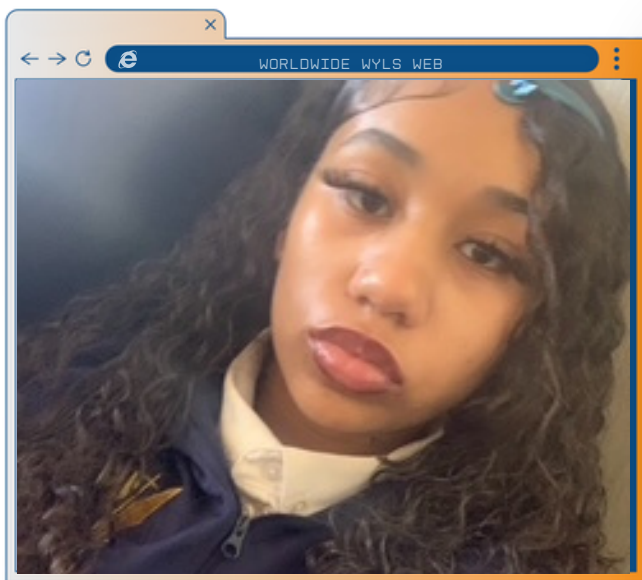
Hometown: Vancouver, WA

Dream Dinner Guest: I would have a talk with Eleanor Roosevelt. I want to know how she felt about the women who worked hard to get soldiers letters home.

What are three things people can ask you about? Volleyball, Los Angeles, anything about Tate McRae or Billie Eilish

Email: evitacortes33@gmail.com





Yirialis Diaz-Mercedes

Hometown: Cincinnati, OH

Dream Dinner Guest: Jesus Christ. I would love to know more about why he sacrificed himself for humanity and how he didn't hate us despite knowing he would have to die for us.

What are three things people can ask you about? Secret talent, staying organized, handling stress

Email: yirialis.diaz@dpcrstudent.org

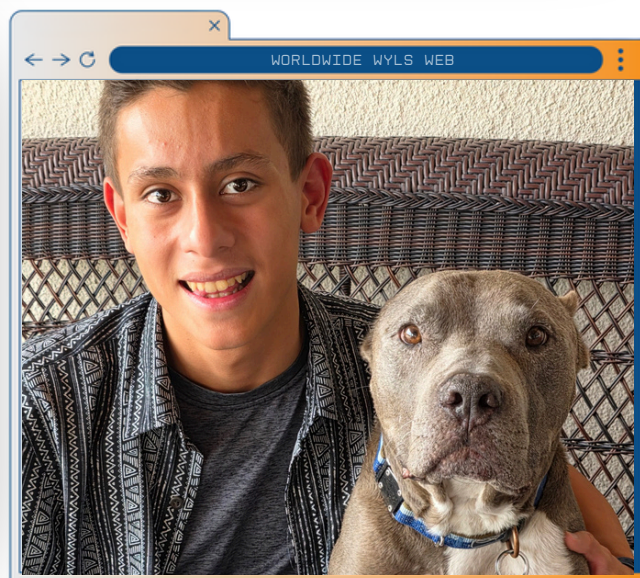
Joaquin Elizondo

Hometown: El Paso, TX

Dream Dinner Guest: I would like to meet my grandfather Jose Rico who passed away before I was born. He was part of the "bracero" program (1942-1964) which brought workers from Mexico to legally work in U.S. agriculture.

What are three things people can ask you about? Robotics, swimming, my dog Vito

Email: Silentthunder11650@gmail.com



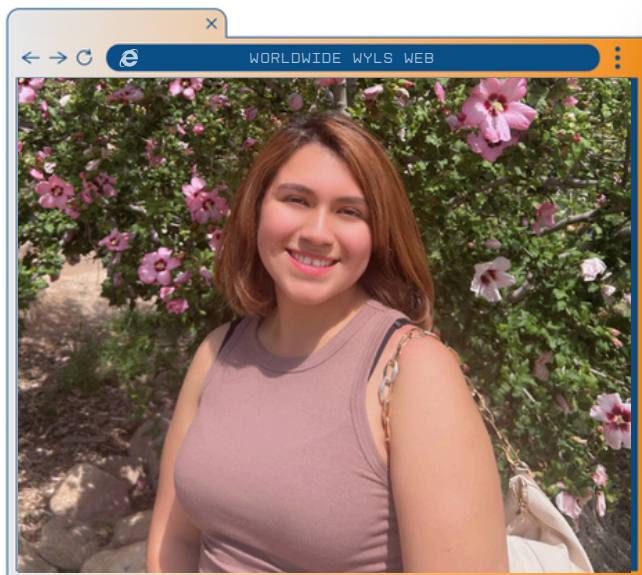
Jocelyn Escarcega

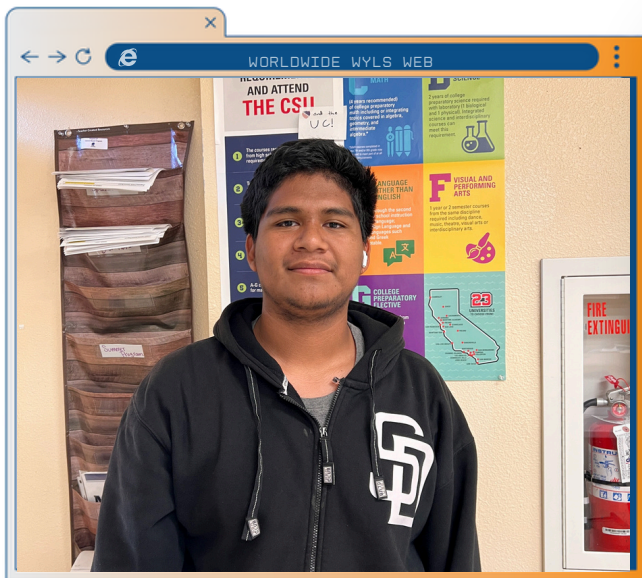
Hometown: Albuquerque, NM

Dream Dinner Guest: Martin Luther King Jr. because I admire how he stood up for the rights of the Africa American people when they were mistreated.

What are three things people can ask you about? Formula One, music, art

Email: escarjocelyn@gmail.com





Daniel Falcon

Hometown: El Cajon, CA

Dream Dinner Guest: I would like to have dinner with Chucky Lozano a famous soccer player because he's a good player and he sign my shirt on one of the games.

What are three things people can ask you about? Eating out, my soccer team, my position

Email: danielfalcon086@gmail.com

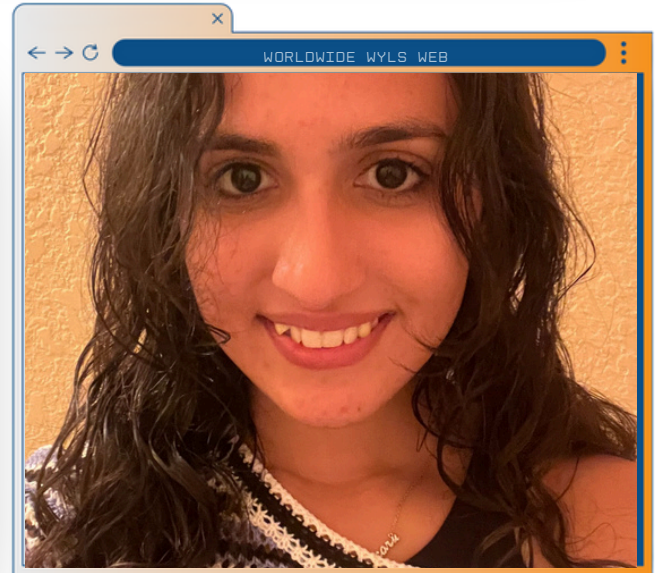
Olivia Fernandez

Hometown: Miami, FL

Dream Dinner Guest: Socrates. I would love to hear firsthand what life in ancient Greece was like, and I believe conversations with him would challenge me to learn more deeply about the world.

What are three things people can ask you about? Romance books, cell biology, Stray Kids

Email: ofernandezortega44@gmail.com



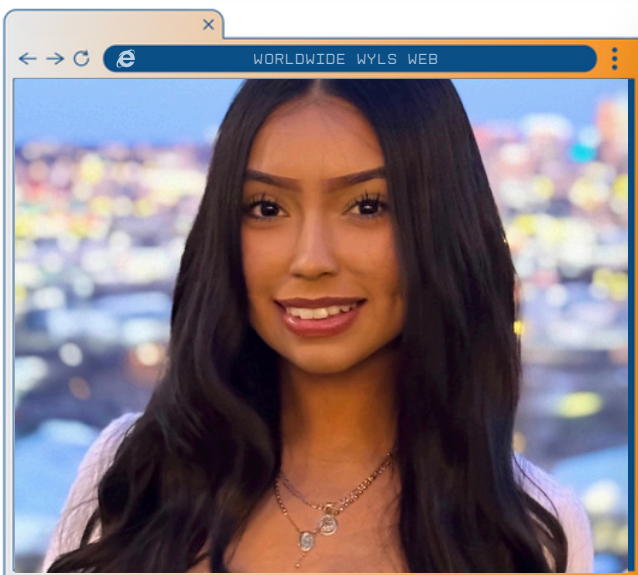
Annette Flores

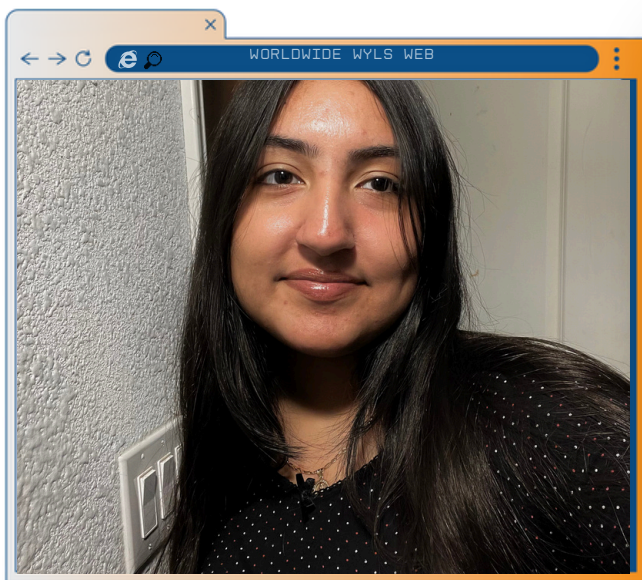
Hometown: Cincinnati, OH

Dream Dinner Guest: Dr. Antonia Novello, the first woman and first Hispanic U.S. Surgeon General. I'd love to discuss how she overcame challenges in medicine and how she used her position to advocate for communities of color.

What are three things people can ask you about? Things to do in Cincinnati, Mexican culture, tennis/soccer

Email: annetteflores101.1@gmail.com





Natalie Flores

Hometown: Dallas, TX

Dream Dinner Guest: Selena Quintanilla. I'd want to discuss how she was able to become such an influential person in both Latin and American culture.

What are three things people can ask you about? Favorite foods, The Marias, Twilight

Email: natfl36@gmail.com

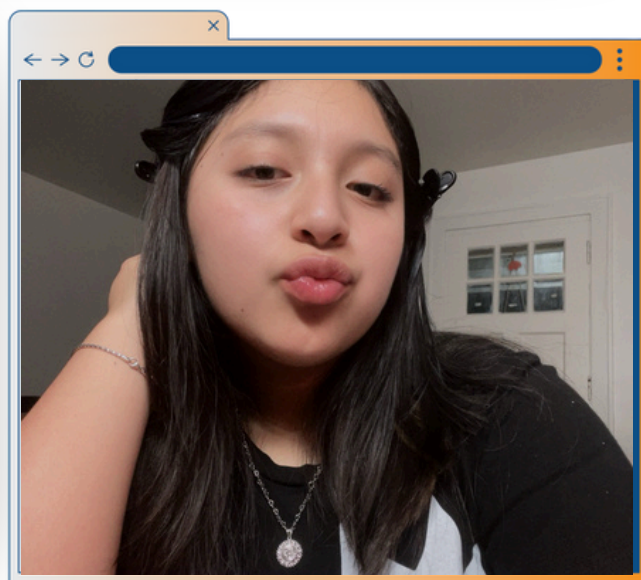
Melany Fuentes Garcia

Hometown: Cincinnati, OH

Dream Dinner Guest: If I could have dinner with someone from the present it would be with my mom because she is not only my mom, but my best friend

What are three things people can ask you about? Where is the best restaurant in Washington?

Email: Fuentesniky07@gmail.com



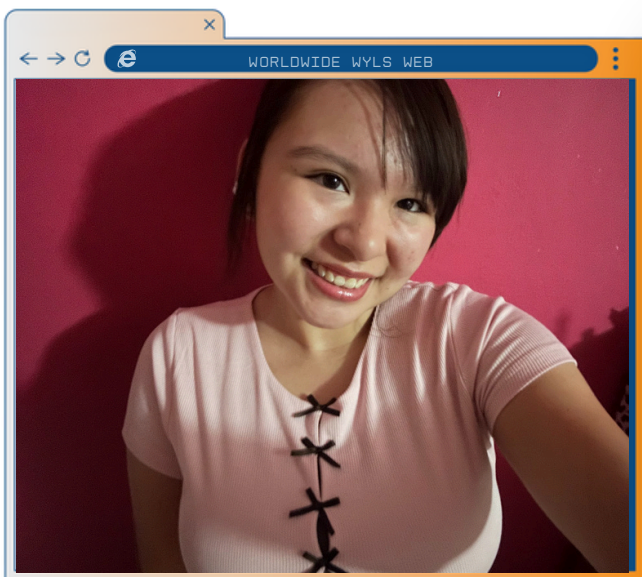
Cerenitie Gamez

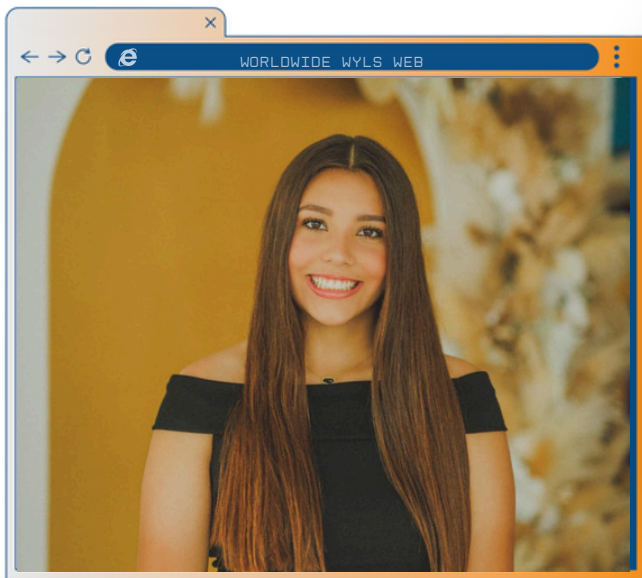
Hometown: San Antonio, TX

Dream Dinner Guest: If I could have dinner with any figure from history I would choose Shakespeare because I really love his writing and would love to know his thoughts behind his work.

What are three things people can ask you about? good book recommendations, what's a pistachio (trust me, if you ask it will make sense), favorite kpop group

Email: cerenitie.gamezzepeda@myhisd.net





Graciela Garcia

Hometown: Arlington, TX

Dream Dinner Guest: I would have dinner with Taylor Swift because she is my favorite musician and it would be fun to hear about her future projects and experiences.

What are three things people can ask you about? Taylor Swift, soccer, reading

Email: graciela-murphygarcia@gmail.com

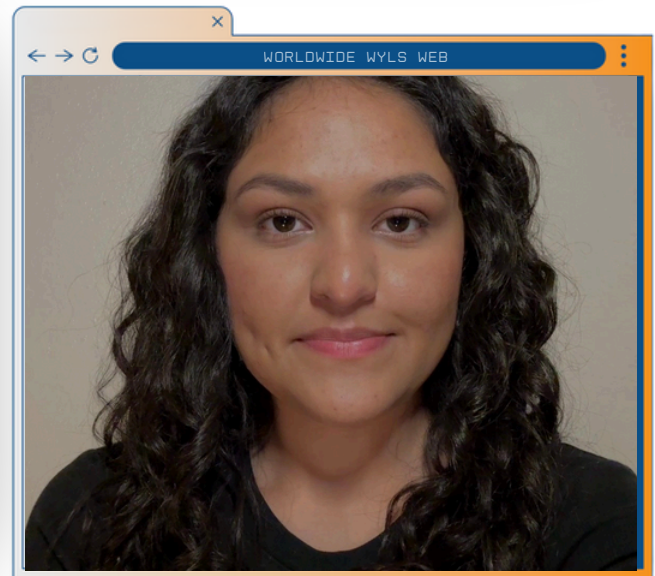
Aileen Gonzalez

Hometown: Dallas, TX

Dream Dinner Guest: Nina Simone. I would love to hear her stories firsthand and how she used her music to challenge racial injustice and inspire a generation during the civil rights movement.

What are three things people can ask you about? Movies, music, guitar tips

Email: aileengonz16@gmail.com



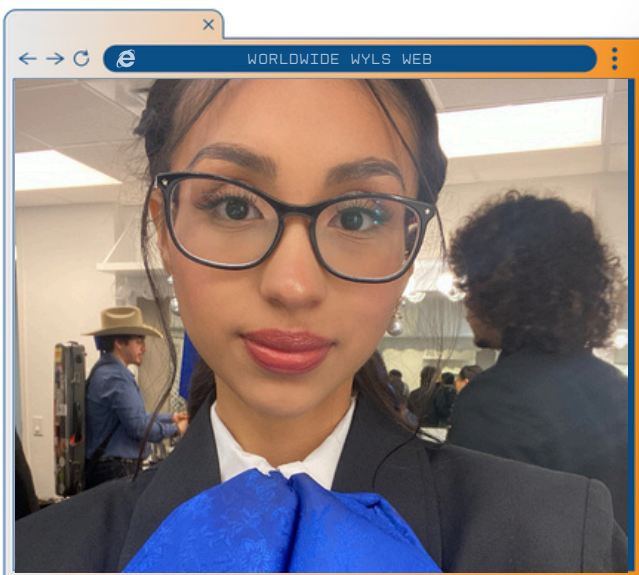
Julissa Guerra

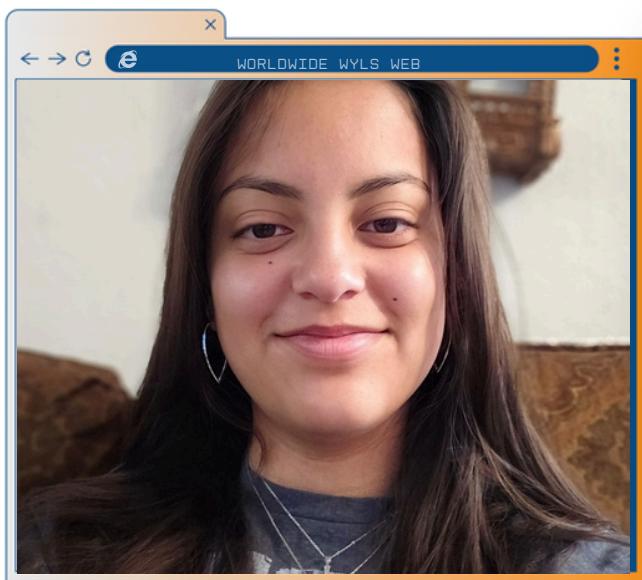
Hometown: Houston, TX

Dream Dinner Guest: Susan B Anthony because she advocated for women.

What are three things people can ask you about? Katseye, How to draw and how to play the violin.

Email: julissaguerra1227@gmail.com





Natalia Jimenez

Hometown: Salinas, CA

Dream Dinner Guest: Taylor Swift. She is one of the most successful pop stars worldwide and has helped many people with her lyrics/stories.

What are three things people can ask you about? What medical field I want to be in, Taylor Swift, favorite hobbies

Email: nataliairenej444@gmail.com

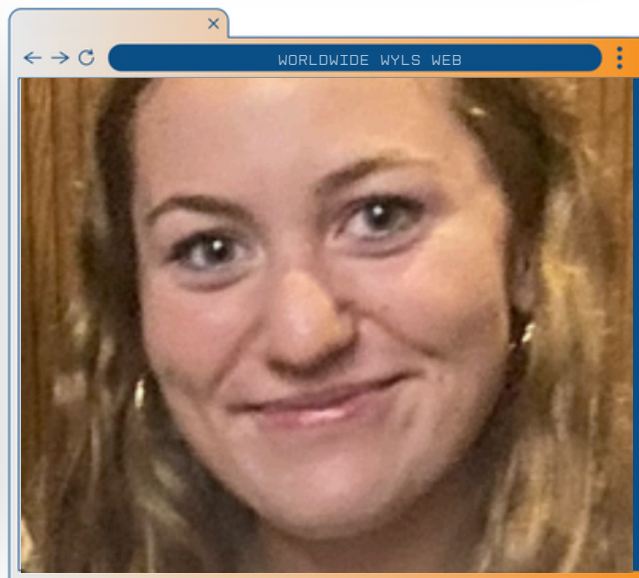
Selma Kacsmar

Hometown: El Paso, TX

Dream Dinner Guest: Franklin D. Roosevelt. I'd ask how he handled the pressure of the Great Depression and World War II, and how he feels about today's government policies and their effect on citizens.

What are three things people can ask you about? softball, where is the best view in El Paso, and Batman

Email: sckacsmar21@gmail.com



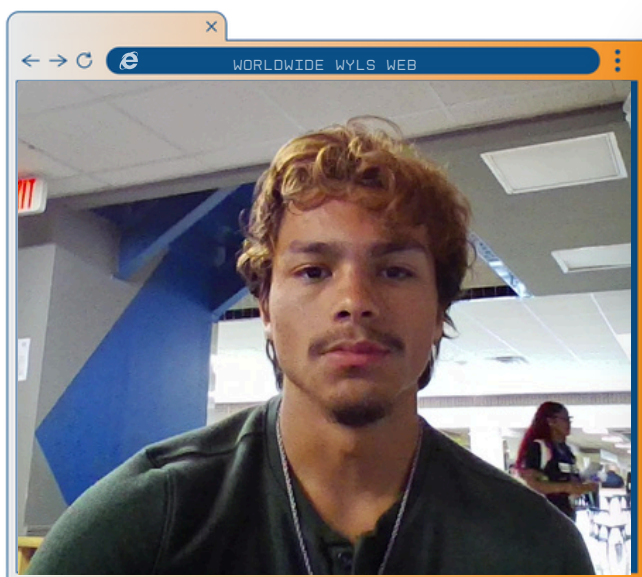
Daniel Lopez

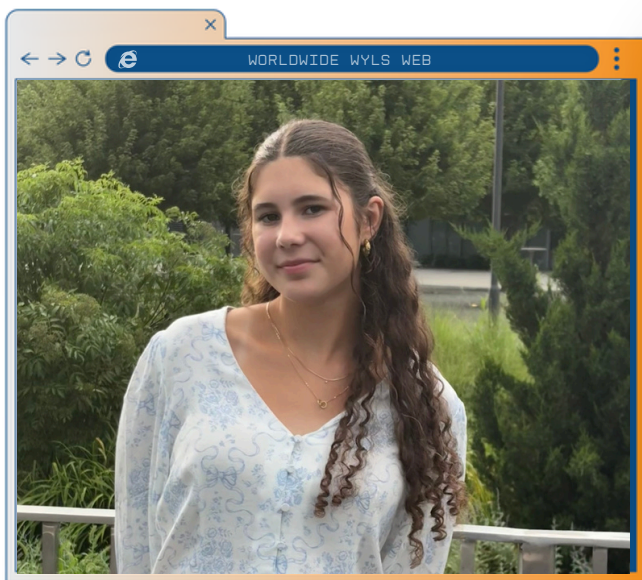
Hometown: Grand Prairie, TX

Dream Dinner Guest: Frederick Douglass. The reason being, Frederick Douglass taught himself to read and write. I wish to have the dedication and determination he held.

What are three things people can ask you about? Soccer, thrifting, music

Email: da2000lo02@gmail.com





Gloria Lopez-Ramirez

Hometown: Springfield, OH

Dream Dinner Guest: I would have dinner with track athlete Gabby Thomas. I was inspired after watching her win gold medals in the Olympics and learning about her degree in Neurobiology from Harvard, and I would love the opportunity to hear about her journey.

What are three things people can ask you about? playing violin, running cross country, and my pets

Email: zglorialopez3@gmail.com

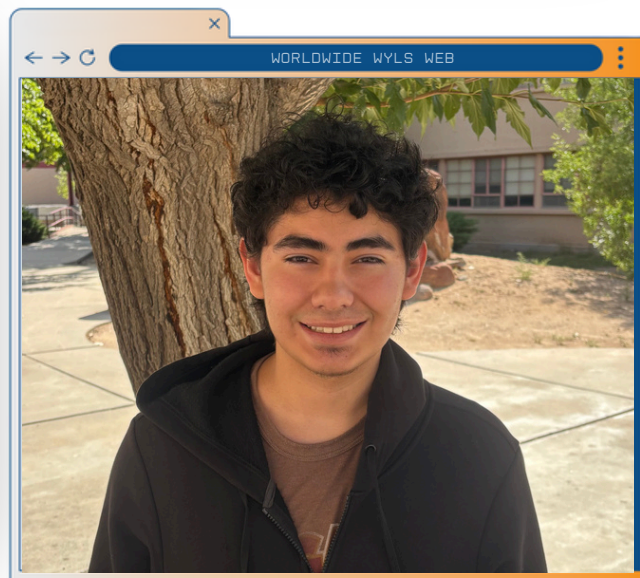
River Lucero

Hometown: Albuquerque, NM

Dream Dinner Guest: I'd chose Gordon Ramsay because I think he could give me great cooking advice since I know very little about cooking

What are three things people can ask you about? Games I play, Dungeons & Dragons, my pets

Email: luceroriver86@gmail.com



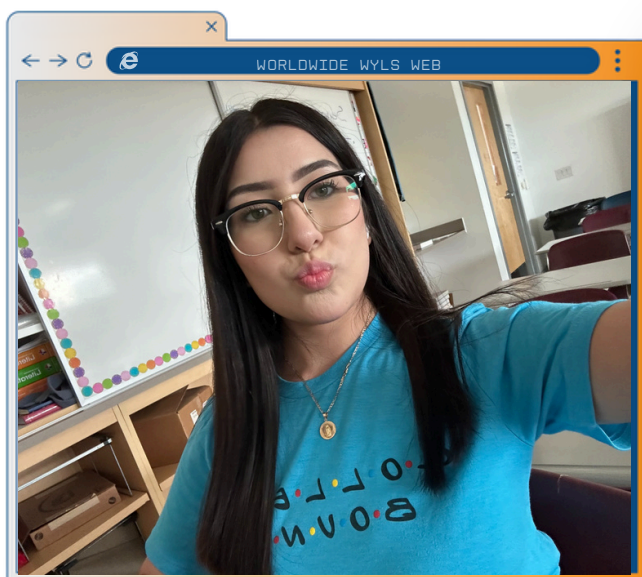
Erika Martinez

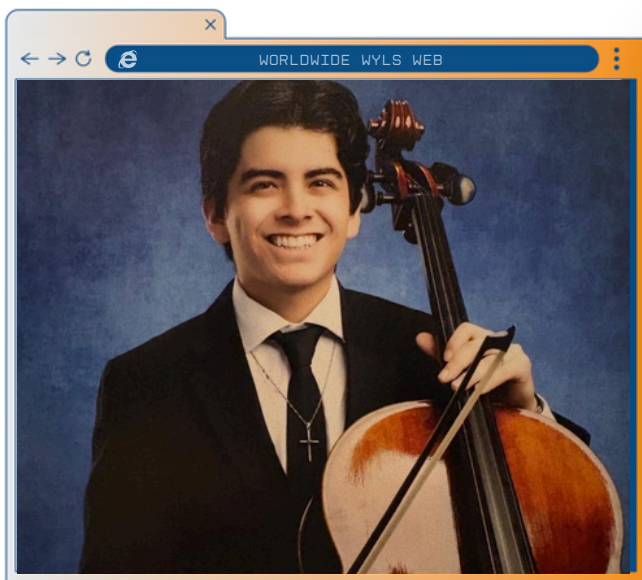
Hometown: Houston, TX

Dream Dinner Guest: Cesar Chavez. I would like to have the opportunity to discuss the issues that he was able to overcome in a racist world, and compare them to today.

What are three things people can ask you about? Journaling, places to visit in Houston, my future goals

Email: erikamartinez24240@gmail.com





Eleazar Martinez III

Hometown: Laredo, TX

Dream Dinner Guest: Jesus Christ. I'd like to discuss with him about current world issues and hear his perspective on it.

What are three things people can ask you about? The Beatles, best instrument, drawing the Batman logo

Email: eleazarmtz08@gmail.com

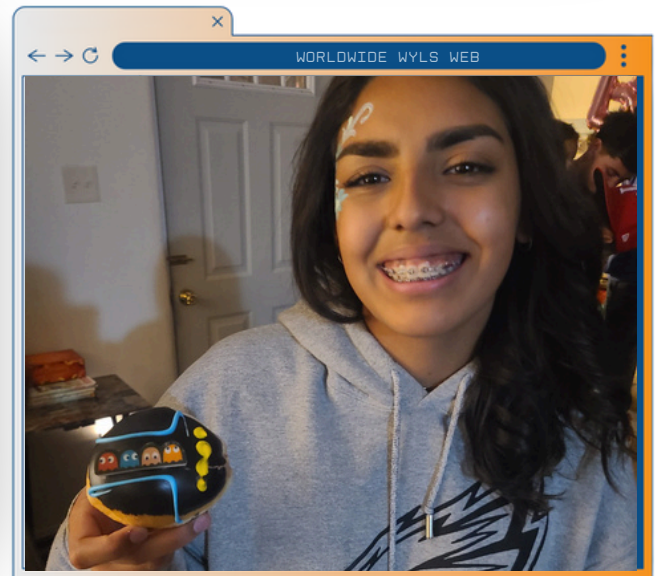
Avanni Mckaney

Hometown: Albuquerque, NM

Dream Dinner Guest: Barack Obama, I would love to learn about his motivations in life and how he kept going to get where he is in life now.

What are three things people can ask you about? Cooking, music, life advice

Email: avanni.mckaney@icloud.com



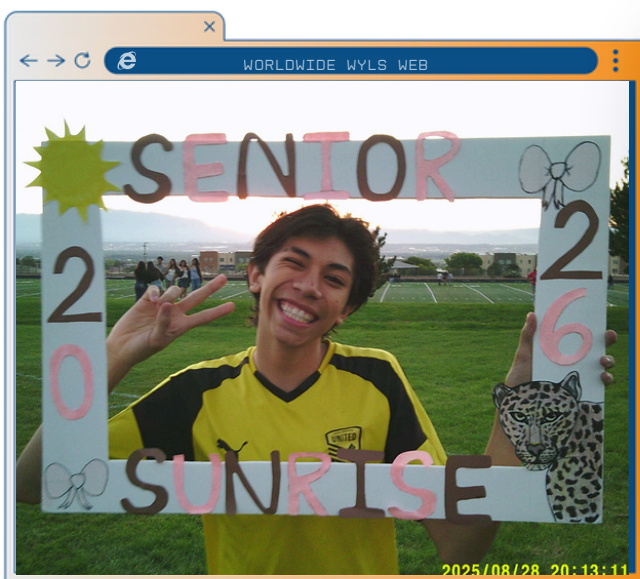
Alexander Nava

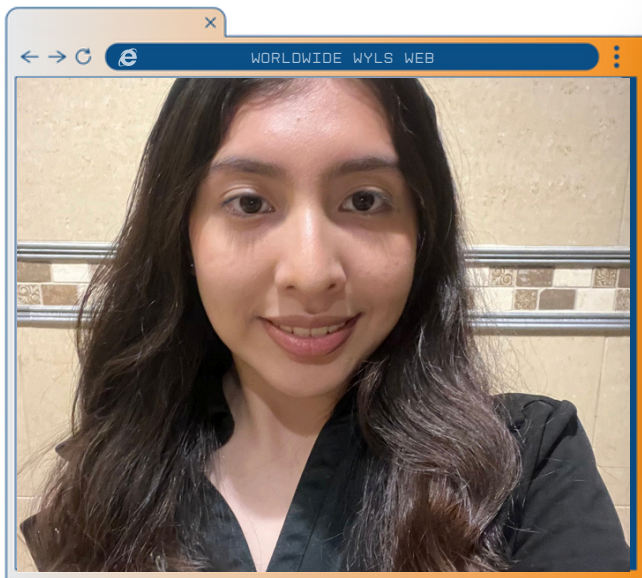
Hometown: Albuquerque, NM

Dream Dinner Guest: Billie Eilish. She inspired me to stay strong and build confidence with every word she sang. She is inspirational to many people and holds a special place in my heart for shaping who I am today.

What are three things people can ask you about? Fun things in Albuquerque, Mexican food, best parts of New Mexico

Email: 10nava.alexander@gmail.com





Valery Noyola

Hometown: Houston, TX

Dream Dinner Guest: Claude Monet. I'd ask for advice on color and paint strokes, and what challenges he faced in creating his art.

What are three things people can ask you about? Houston Rodeo, being the eldest daughter, favorite music

Email: valerienoyola59@gmail.com

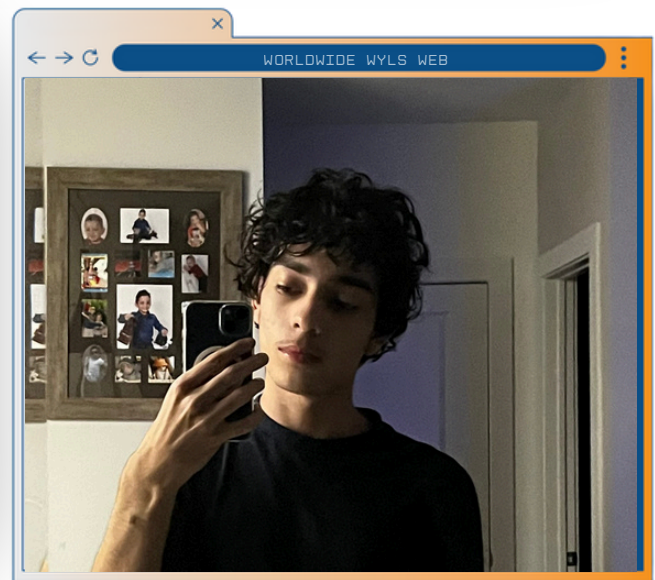
Kaedon Nunez

Hometown: League City, TX

Dream Dinner Guest: I would have dinner with Hayao Miyazaki, the filmmaker. His imagination is incredible, and I'd love to know how he comes up with such amazing, magical story's.

What are three things people can ask you about? Video games, sports, music

Email: kaedongianni@icloud.com



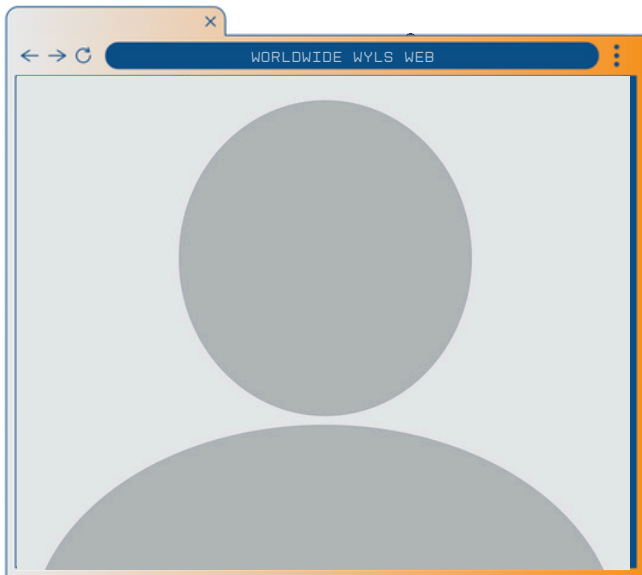
Daniel Ordonez

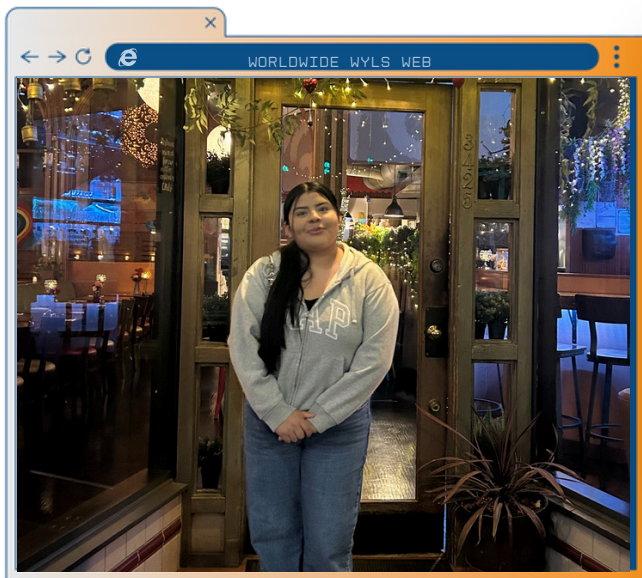
Hometown: Albuquerque, NM

Dream Dinner Guest:

What are three things people can ask you about?

Email: 980015661@aps.edu





Daniela Palafox

Hometown: Vancouver, WA

Dream Dinner Guest: Our Aztec people and learn more about them and their rich history.

What are three things people can ask you about? Shopping deals, BTS, makeup tips

Email: palafoxdaneila@gmail.com

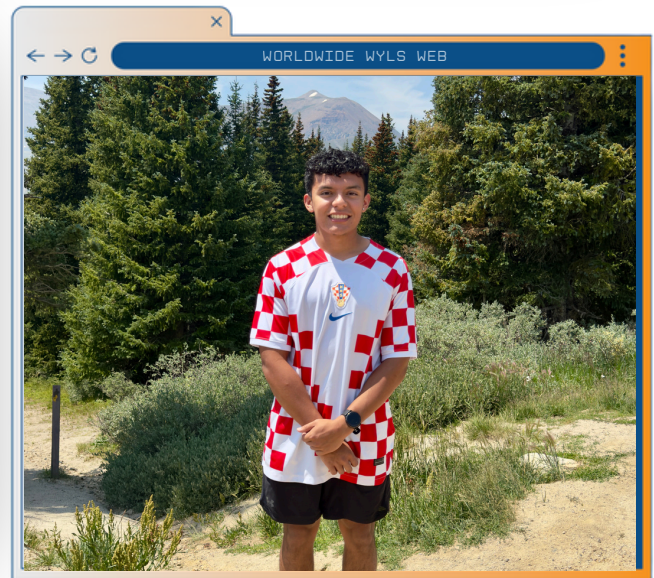
William Palma

Hometown: West Liberty, IA

Dream Dinner Guest: If I could choose anybody it would be Jay-Z. I'd probably ask him what he had to go through and things about his life

What are three things people can ask you about? Future plans, career goals, favorite food

Email: wiltreepalma5@gmail.com



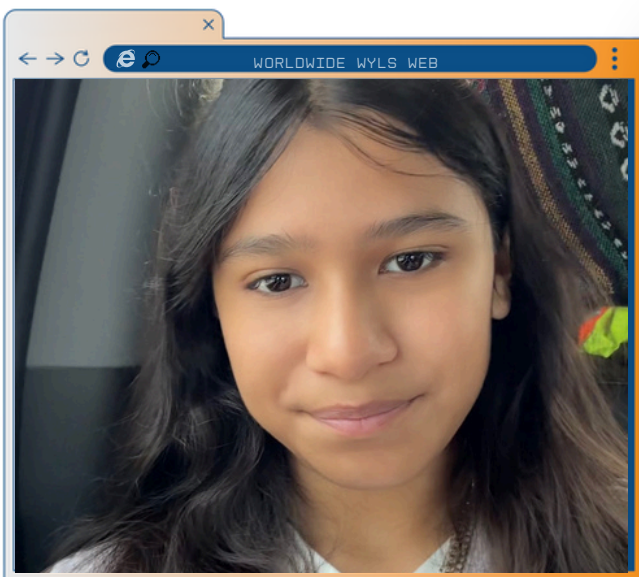
Jailyn Palmerin

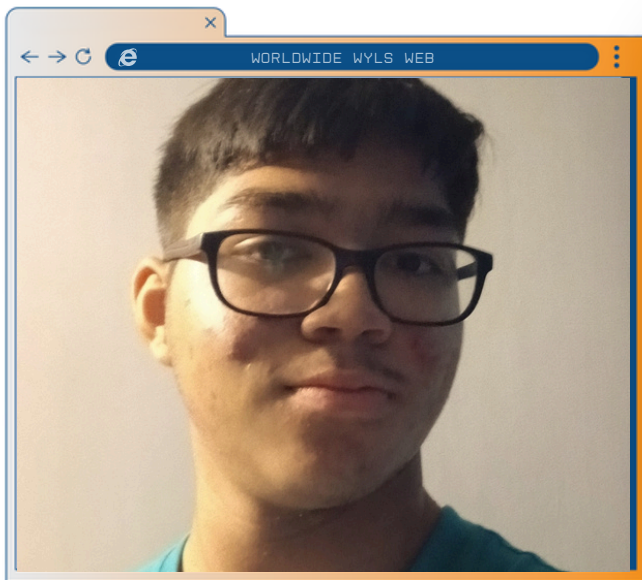
Hometown: Dallas, TX

Dream Dinner Guest: Nikola Tesla. He was a visionary who changed the world even though he never received full credit. I admire his dedication to pursuing passionate ideas despite failure, and I would love to hear what inspired him to think so far ahead of his time.

What are three things people can ask you about? Chess, movies/shows I recommend, making pizza

Email: jpalmerin777@gmail.com





Brayan Ruiz

Hometown: Houston, TX

Dream Dinner Guest: Abraham Lincoln. A man of his status and leadership is someone to look up to. His history shows honesty and selflessness, and his interest really resided with the people rather than himself.

What are three things people can ask you about? The 2020s, Texas education system, what makes Houston unique

Email: thebattleramzz@gmail.com

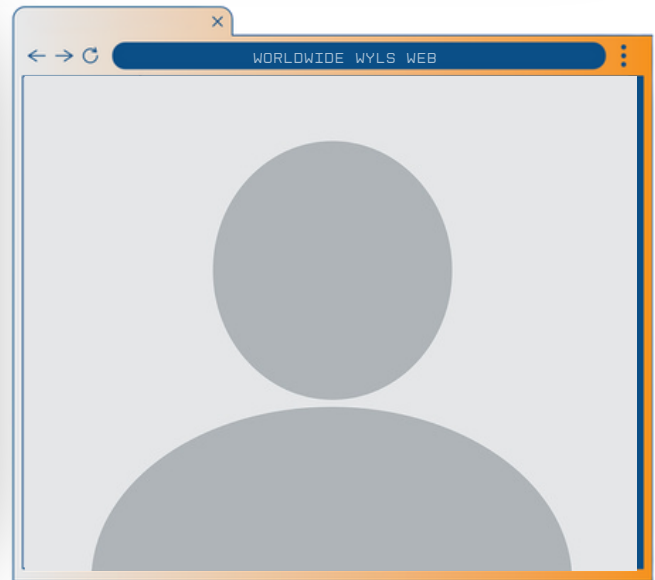
Brisa Salazar

Hometown: Russellville, AR

Dream Dinner Guest:

What are three things people can ask you about?

Email: brisasalazar5@icloud.com



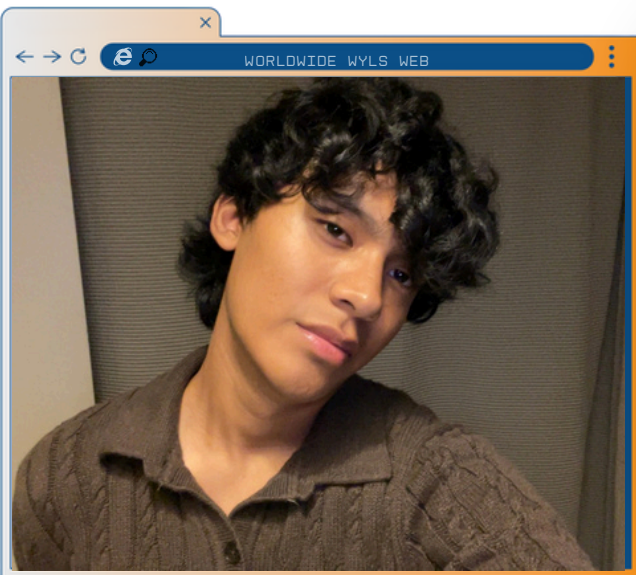
Sebastian Sanchez Alatorre

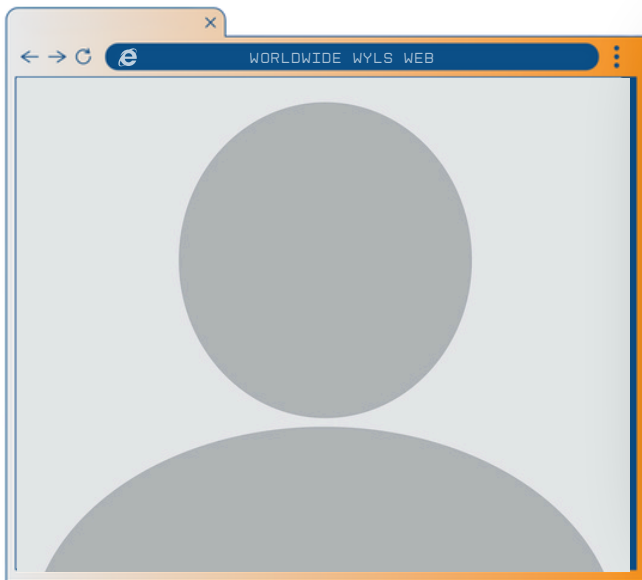
Hometown: Dallas, TX

Dream Dinner Guest: I would love to have dinner with Princess Diana of Wales, because I would learn about what compassion is really about, and how someone really can connect with others.

What are three things people can ask you about? Taylor Swift, spelling, making the best of your ward

Email: sebasanala@gmail.com





Mark Sanchez Jr.

Hometown: San Antonio, TX

Dream Dinner Guest:

What are three things people can ask you about?

Email: msanchez26@cchs-satx.org

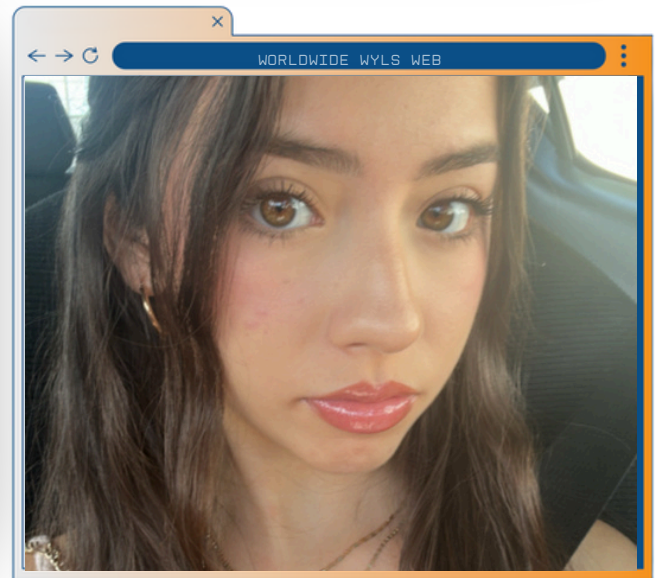
Estrella Sandoval

Hometown: Santa Ana, CA

Dream Dinner Guest: Harry S. Truman. I'd want to ask about his justification for dropping the atomic bomb and hear his perspective on such a controversial decision.

What are three things people can ask you about? Pierce the Veil, The Summer I Turned Pretty, my pets

Email: strllsnd@gmail.com



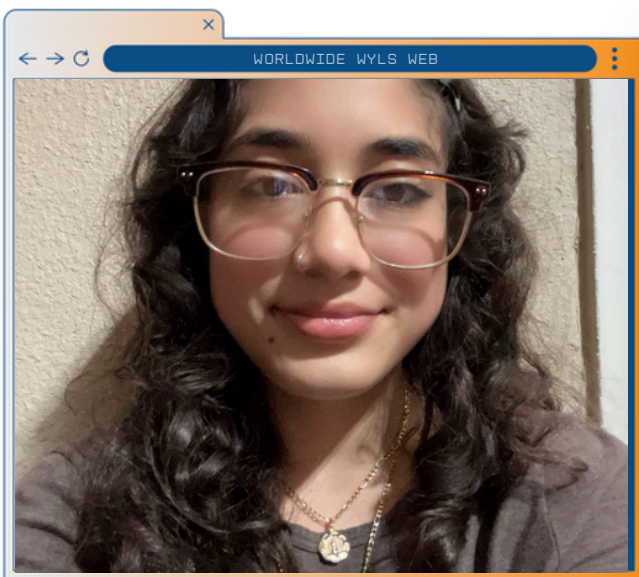
Yasmin Tejeda

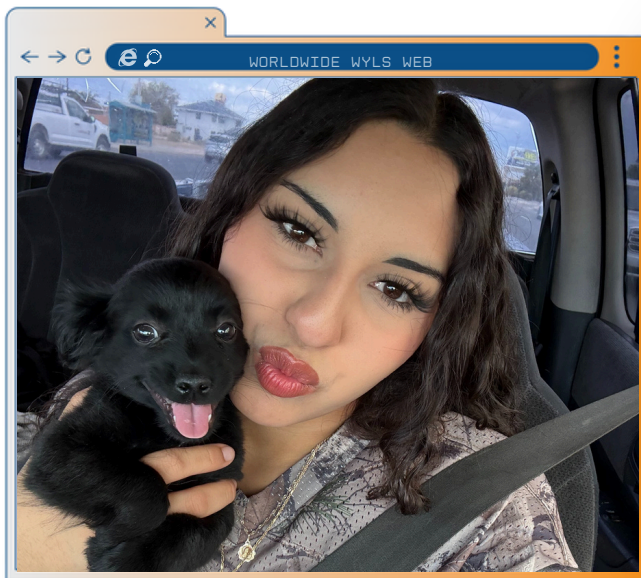
Hometown: Dallas, TX

Dream Dinner Guest: I would say probably Malala because she is very inspiring and it would be an honor to have a discussion.

What are three things people can ask you about? Music, movies, and shows

Email: yasmintejeda767@gmail.com





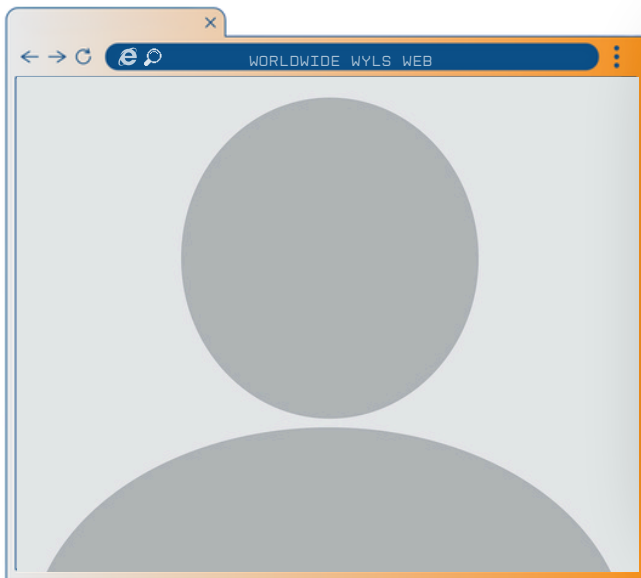
Vanessa Trevizo Ramos

Hometown: Albuquerque, NM

Dream Dinner Guest: Amalia Hernández, because I would love to have a conversation with her about dance, since it is something I am very passionate about and want to keep pursuing in the future.

What are three things people can ask you about? Spanish spelling/grammar, pet care, cooking pasta

Email: vanne.maggy@gmail.com



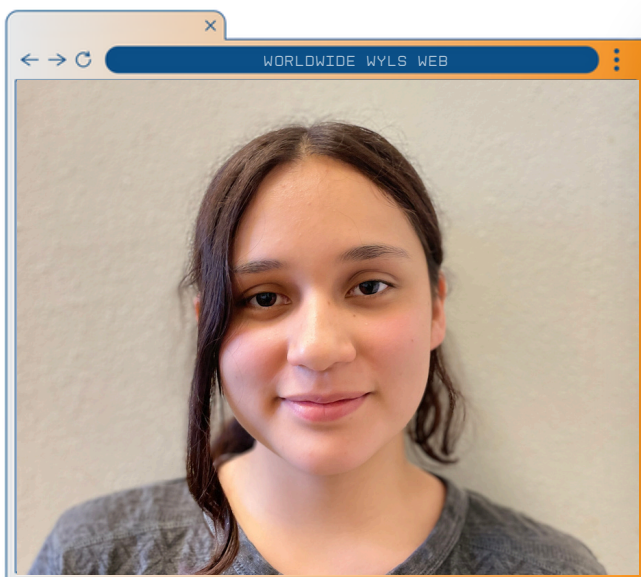
Liliana Valencia

Hometown: Washington, DC

Dream Dinner Guest:

What are three things people can ask you about?

Email: lilianavalencia218@gmail.com



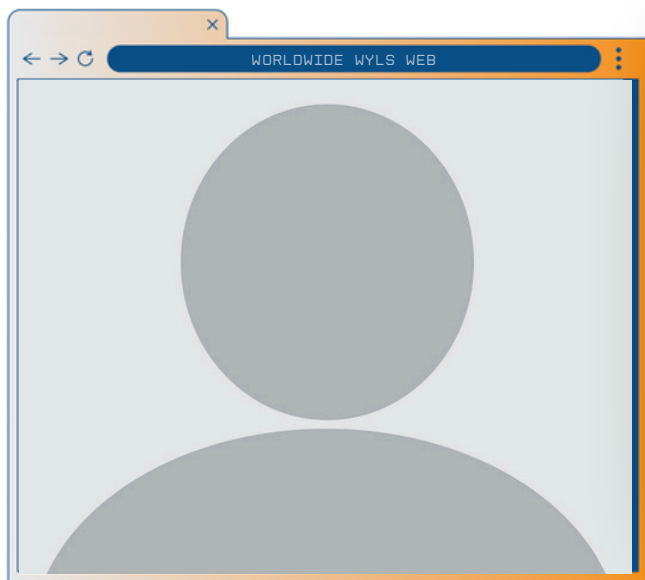
Dennisse Valenzuela

Hometown: Albuquerque, NM

Dream Dinner Guest:

What are three things people can ask you about?

Email: dennissev583@gmail.com



Edwin Venegas

Hometown: Hamilton, Ohio

Dream Dinner Guest: Dannylux, because he knows how to express himself in music and moves people with it.

What are three things people can ask you about? type of music I listen to, what I am passionate about, and what instrument I play

Email: 27venegase@badinhs.org



MEET THE WYLS STAFF



Behind the scenes of every year's Washington Youth Leadership Seminar (WYLS) is a dedicated team of professionals who have worked tirelessly to ensure the success of its 2025 chapter.

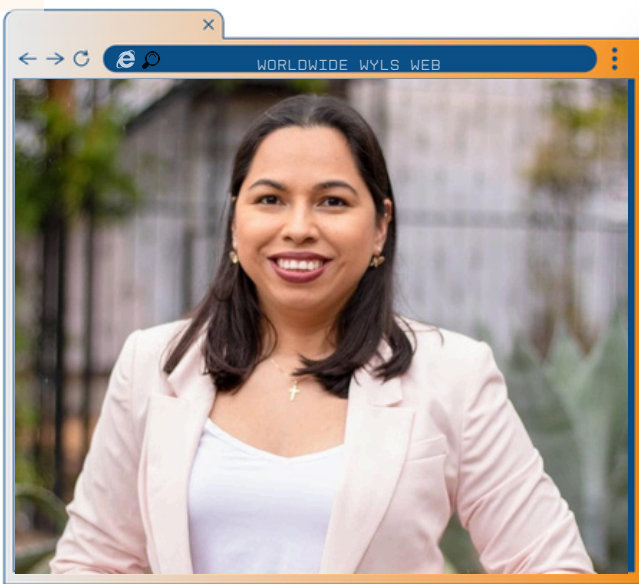
From reviewing WYLS applications to designing seminar curricula and securing inspiring speakers- the WYLS Staff has shaped every detail of this year's program with precision and care. They've also coordinated essential logistics like providing mentorship throughout your workshops, designing the workshop curricula, securing speakers, and more!

Despite WYLS 2025 being remote, the team is enthusiastic about ensuring that all participants have an impactful learning experience!

Whether it's John ensuring that students are confident in allowing their voices to shine or Marianna's belief in being intellectually curious- the WYLS team shares a belief that leadership is not a one-size-fits-all journey.

In fact, it is a deeply personal process of discovery—one that doesn't end in the WYLS breakout rooms Zoom, but rather, is merely "sparked" by all that the parthas to offer!





Sandra Avalos

Title: Tutor Coordinator, Parent Programs Manager at LNEsc Dallas

Hometown: Dallas, TX

What are three things people can ask you about? immigration; non-profit work; monarch butterflies

Email: savalos@lnesc.org

WYLS COACH

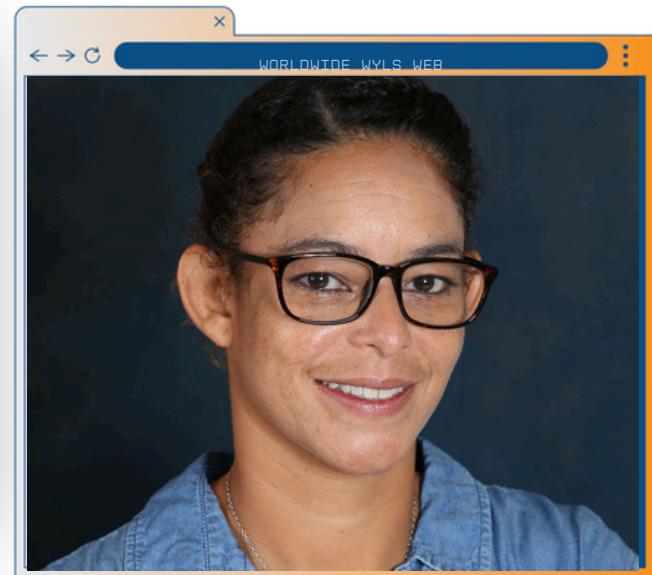
Enid Jimenez

Title: Office Manager/Executive Assistant, LNEsc National Office

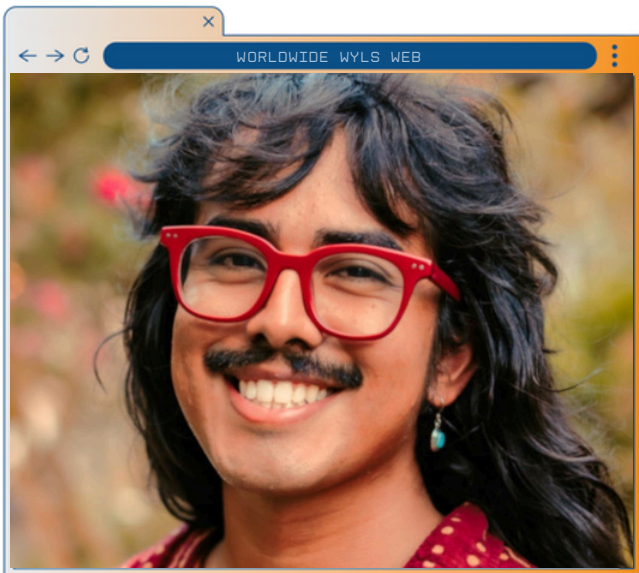
Hometown: Chicago, Illinois

What are three things people can ask you about? Culebra island, DC's best food, student empowerment

Email: ejimenez@lnesc.org



WYLS STAFF



Alan Martinez

Title: Program Coordinator, Atrisco Heritage Academy, LNEsc Albuquerque

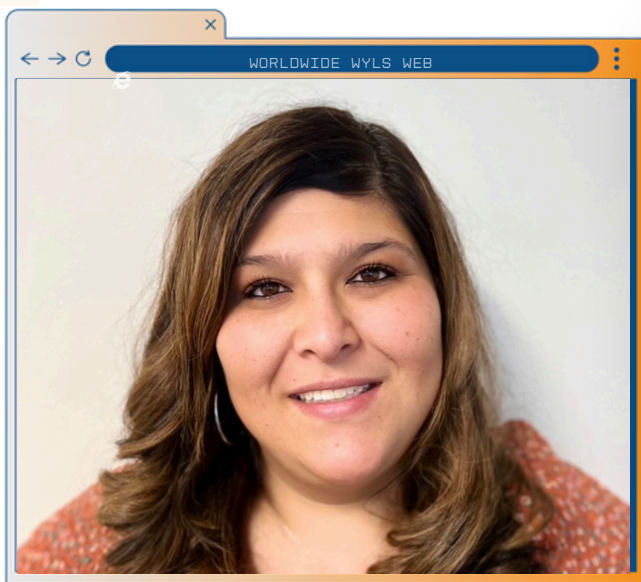
Hometown: Albuquerque, NM

Dream Dinner Guest: Empress Dowager Cixi. A powerful female figure in Chinese history whose legacy is highly debated. We are also birthday buddies.

What are three things people can ask you about?
Genshin Impact teambuilding, American English speech sound production, RuPaul's Drag Race

Email: amartinez@lnesc.org

WYLS COACH



WYLS COACH

Karla Moore

Title: Program Coordinator, Highland High School, LNEsc Albuquerque

Hometown: Albuquerque, NM

Dream Dinner Guest: Jennifer Garner. I would like to ask her how she has been able to remain so humble, philanthropic and graceful in the acting profession. I have always aspired to pursue acting and she is one of the actresses I look up to the most because she's so great at acting, but also such a selfless, wonderful human being.

What are three things people can ask you about? best tasting ranch in Albuquerque, the best Linkin Park songs, best hot chips to snack on?

Email: kmoore@lnesc.org

Marianna Moron

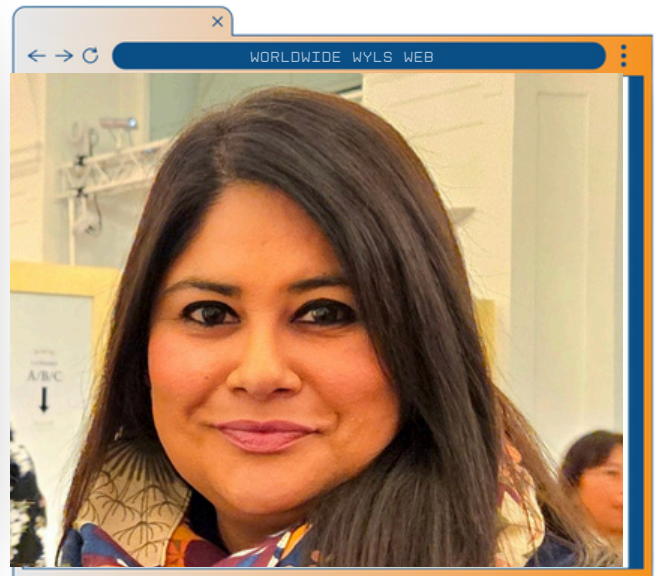
Title: Chief Operating Officer, LNEsc National Office

Hometown: Beeville, TX

Dream Dinner Guest: Supreme Court Justice Sonya Sotomayor. She is an inspiration to young women across the country to pursue their dreams, big and small, and stand firm in their convictions.

What are three things people can ask you about? Serving as a Peace Corps volunteer; All things Guatemala; Indie rock music

Email: mmoron@lnesc.org



WYLS STAFF

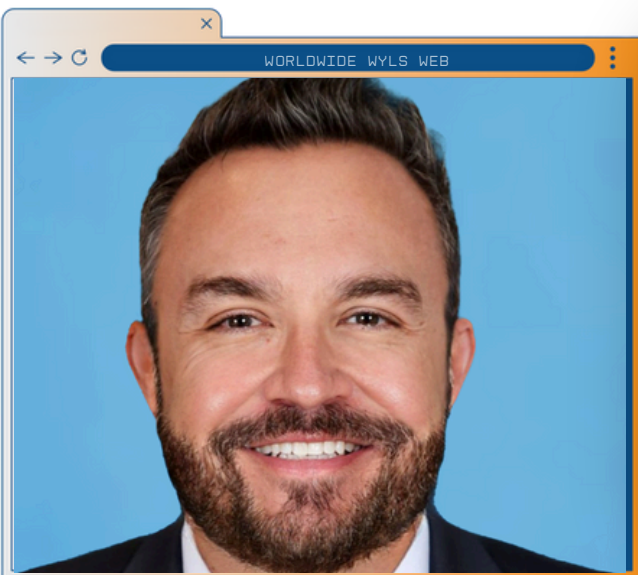
John Moya

Hometown: Albuquerque, NM

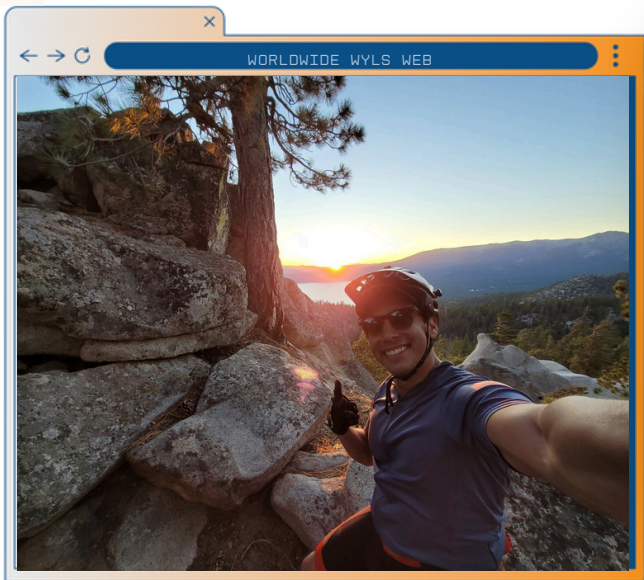
Dream Dinner Guest: Jaime Escalante, the math teacher who transformed expectations for low-income students in Los Angeles. Why? He fostered a community atmosphere and empowered students to help each other and proved that challenging curriculum can be successfully taught to all students, regardless of background.

What are three things people can ask you about? my shih tzu named Mei-Ling, my thoughts on the Edgar haircut, the history of New Mexico

Email: jmoya@lnesc.org



WYLS STAFF



Roger Romero

Title: TRIO Programs Manager, LNEsc Dallas

Hometown: Dallas, TX

Dream Dinner Guest: Lionel Messi or Louis Zamperini. I would like to hear first hand their incredible, yet successful, journey in life.

What are three things people can ask you about? My mountain biking journey across the U.S.; Restoring my beloved 1970 Ford Mustang; Insights into automotive engineering and craftsmanship

Email: rromero@lnesc.org

WYLS COACH

Raul Sanchez

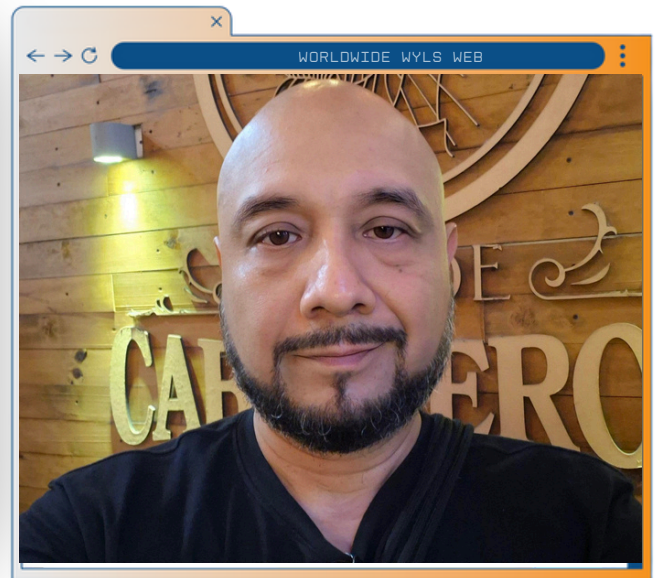
Title: Director of Development, LNEsc National Office

Hometown: East Chicago, IN

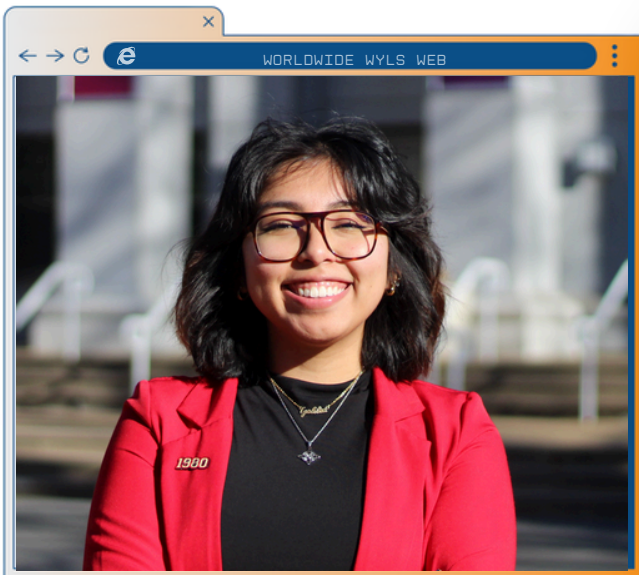
Dream Dinner Guest: Charles Schulz, to discuss his inspiration for the Peanuts characters he created.

What are three things people can ask you about? Learning how to sail; Real estate investing; Horror movies, especially during Halloween

Email: rsanchez@lnesc.org



WYLS STAFF



Galilea Sejas-Machado

Title: National Program Coordinator

Hometown: Annandale, VA

Dream Dinner Guest: Paola Ramos. I would love to learn more about her journalism experiences and research within Latine/Indigenous communities.

What are three things people can ask you about? how to start junk journaling, Latine Greek life, higher education access

Email: gsejas@lnesc.org

WYLS STAFF

Jesus Villarreal

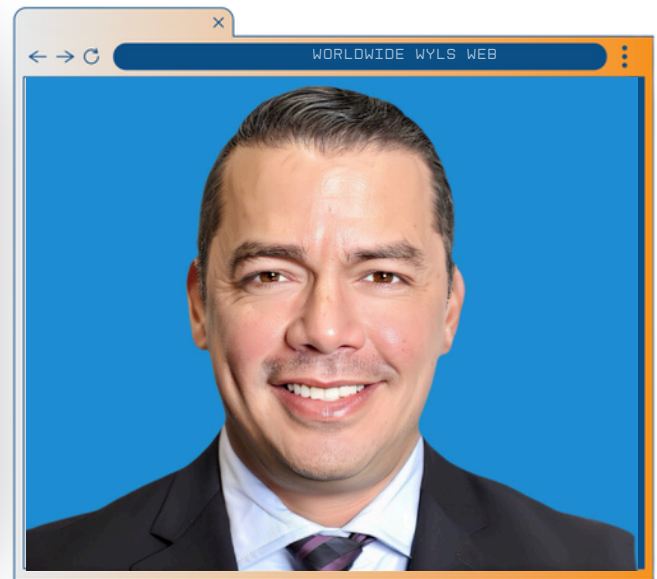
Title: TRiO Manager, LNEsc Albuquerque

Hometown: Albuquerque, New Mexico

Dream Dinner Guest: I would choose Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. I would like to talk with him about how he managed the stress and pressure of his time while leading the fight for racial equality. His ability to stay strong, compassionate, and committed in the face of such challenges

What are three things people can ask you about? how to make the best steak, anything about volleyball, traveling

Email: jvillarreal@lnesc.org



WYLS STAFF

Hope Willenbrink-Marchesi

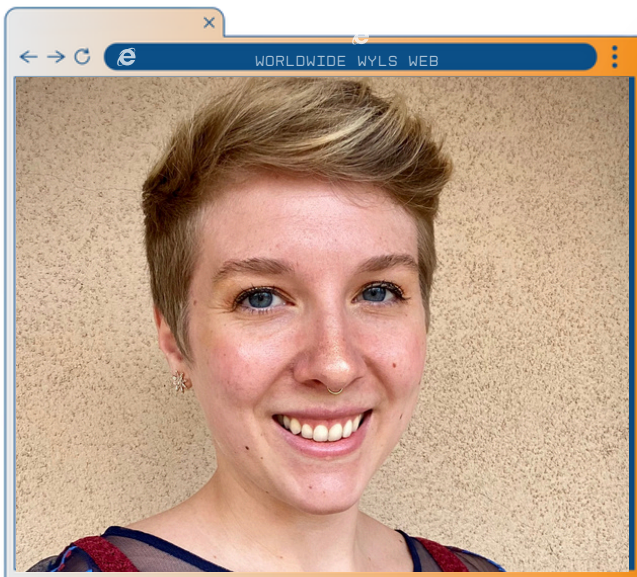
Title: Program Coordinator, Valley High School, LNEsc Albuquerque

Hometown: Kimberly, WI

Dream Dinner Guest: Janelle Monae, because she is a Queen and I love her.

What are three things people can ask you about? my puppies Olive & Fig, music Degrees, Project Runway

Email: hwillenbrink@lnesc.org



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Jaylin Wyrwitzke

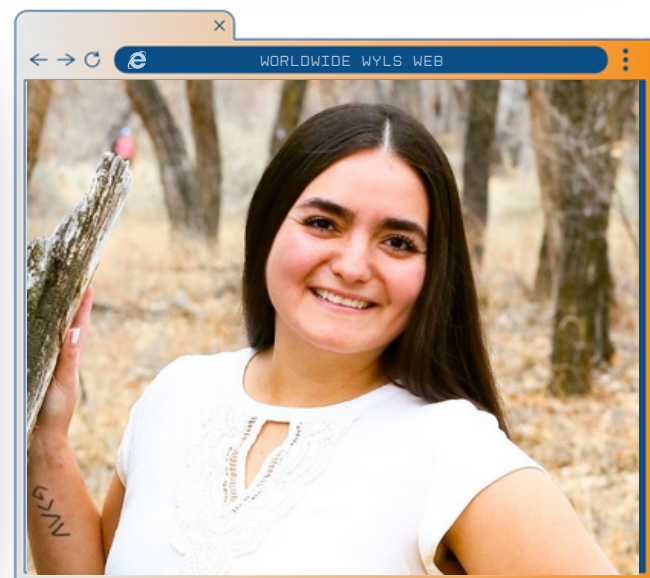
Title: Program Coordinator, Del Norte High School, LNEsc Albuquerque

Hometown: Tijeras, New Mexico

Dream Dinner Guest: Mahatma Gandhi. He envisioned a world where people lived harmoniously, respected each other's differences, and adopted non-violent means to resolve conflicts. I would love to converse more about these topics with him!

What are three things people can ask you about? Gardening; My two kitties; Eco-friendly living

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