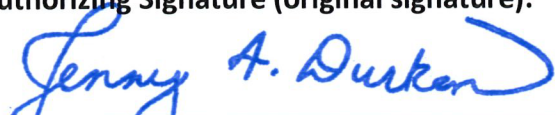




City of Seattle Boards & Commissions Notice of Appointment

Appointee Name: KAREN ARLETTE GAMEZ LOPEZ		
Board/Commission Name: Seattle Immigrant and Refugee Commission		Position Title: Member
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Appointment OR <input type="checkbox"/> Reappointment		Council Confirmation required? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Appointing Authority: <input type="checkbox"/> Council <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mayor <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <i>Fill in appointing authority</i>	Date Appointed: 8/29/2019	Term of Position: * 2/1/2019 to 1/31/2021 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Serving remaining term of a vacant position</i>
Residential Neighborhood: Council District 3	Zip Code: 98144	Contact Phone No.: <div style="background-color: black; width: 100px; height: 15px;"></div>
Background: Karen Arlette Gamez Lopez is a 2018 graduate of the University of Washington with a B.A. in American Ethnic Studies. She was born in Sinaloa, Mexico, and was brought to the US at the age of three. She graduated from Kent Meridian High School and received her Associates in Arts with honors at Green River College. Growing up, she faced many challenges while trying to go to college as a first-generation college student, low-income, and an undocumented woman. Throughout her time at UW, she was dedicated to her student job at Leadership Without Borders and being an officer for Purple Group, a student organization of undocumented students. She helped fundraise over \$3000 for scholarships for Undocu students and helped organize the first annual Purple Group Undocu Graduation Celebration. She also served as a co-lead for the 6th Annual Beyond HB 1079 Conference and was a co-founder of Undocu Week at UW. This year, Karen worked as the Coordinator of Leadership Without Borders, where she worked to ensure undocumented student success at the University of Washington and beyond. Overall, Karen hopes to dedicate her life to empowering her community. She is undocumented, unafraid, and here to stay.		
Authorizing Signature (original signature): 		Appointing Signatory: Jenny A. Durkan Mayor of Seattle

FILED
 CITY OF SEATTLE
 19 AUG 29 AM 9:54
 CITY CLERK

*Term begin and end date is fixed and tied to the position and not the appointment date.

Karen Arlette Gamez Lopez

EDUCATION

University of Washington (UW) - Seattle

September 2015 – June 2019

- BA in Social Sciences (American Ethnic Studies)

Green River College (GRC)

September 2013 – December 2015

- Associates in Arts, Honors

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Coordinator | Leadership Without Borders, Samuel E. Kelly Ethnic Cultural Center (ECC) | UW – Seattle | September 2018 – present

- Provide one-on-one support to over 180 undocumented students the center serves with WASFA, DACA, scholarships, affidavits, and any other UW paperwork or process
- Assist students with scholarship opportunities, campus and community resources and services, student activities, career options, legal assistance, and medical, health, or educational programs
- Research pertinent information to keep the program knowledgeable of best-practices, laws, and systemic changes affecting the students
- Design and implement programs, workshops, and community building events for undocumented students
- Facilitate and co-facilitate Undocu Ally presentations, workshops, and trainings on campus and to community organizations
- Collaborate and build connections with Purple Group, UW staff and faculty, and organizations both on and off campus to ensure undocumented student success on campus and beyond

Student Program Assistant | Leadership Without Borders, ECC | UW – Seattle | August 2017 – August 2018

- Planned and helped coordinate various programs throughout the academic year tailored to needs of undocumented students including educational and empowerment workshops
- Provided support to over 150 undocumented students the center served including WASFA, DACA, scholarships, affidavits, and any other UW paperwork or process
- Organized and maintained the Husky Lending Library including the distribution and collection of books
- Co-facilitated over fifteen Undocu Ally presentations, workshops, and full day trainings throughout the academic year, influencing over 350 educators, staff, students, and community members

College Success Navigator | Leadership Without Borders, ECC | UW – Seattle | July 2016 – June 2017

- Mentored over twenty freshmen students by helping them navigate the college system and integrate to UW
- Actively worked to have mentees accomplish all five milestones for student success through the organization of events, workshops, and educational opportunities
- Frequently documented mentee engagement and success to maintain accurate data and know what to improve
- Assisted the Leadership Without Borders center in providing resources for undocumented students
- Answered a multi-line telephone, took messages, and transferred calls when needed

Peer Navigator/Immigration Ambassador | Office of Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion – GRC | August 2014 – June 2015

- Fostered diversity in community and school while providing resources for underrepresented and marginalized students
- Collaborated with staff to host diversity events and conferences including the African American Leadership Conference, Pacific Islander Summit, First Peoples' Conference, and the Diversity and Equity Conference
- Arranged for over twenty students to travel to and attend the Latino/a Educational Achievement Project (LEAP) Conference through fundraising and requesting money from different services and programs across campus
- Provided bilingual services, and help with financial aid, applications, DACA, WASFA, affidavits, etc.
- Student panelist for the DREAMers training for community and technical colleges in WA state
- Led a bilingual discussion forum/study table with ESL students

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Community Grants Committee | Latino Community Fund (LCF) | Seattle | August 2018 – November 2018

- Collaborated with over twenty members to decide the process and criteria on how to allocate LCF Grant funding available to Latino nonprofit organizations developing grassroots leadership in our community
- Reviewed over forty applications and awarded 22 grants, totaling \$92,000, to directly improve the well-being of Latino children and families in WA state
- Facilitated the Community Grants Award Night

Scholarship Chair | Purple Group | UW – Seattle | June 2017 – August 2018

- Planned and facilitated weekly meetings for over 20 members including professional development, know your rights, educational, and community building opportunities
- Collectively organized over five fundraisers and raised over \$2,000 for two scholarships for undocumented students
- Received recognition as the “*Breakout* Registered Student Organization (RSO)” at the Annual ECC Gala
- Created an inaugural Purple Group Undocu Graduation Celebration which recognized 10+ graduating undocu students
- Made partnerships on and off campus to fundraised \$2000 for food, music, stoles, and decorations for the graduation celebration for 70+ students, family members, and attendees

Co-Lead | Beyond HB1079 6th Annual Conference | UW & Yakima Valley College | October 2017–May 2018

- Collaborated with 10+ committee members at UW and YVC to arrange the programming and details for the conference including workshops, giveaways, keynote speakers, university/resource fair, food, lodging, volunteers, and activities
- Oversaw Scholarship Committee and Programming Committee to ensure teamwork and success
- Created a scholarship application, reviewed over 40 scholarship applications, and selected four recipients for our four \$1000 scholarships provided through Beyond HB 1079 and Purple Group
- Reviewed and updated a scholarship list with over 300 scholarships for undocu students in WA state and nationally
- Created a 20+ page conference program for more than 200 attendees
- Planned and facilitated conference to provide undocumented high school students, undocumented college students, educators, and family members with resources and empowerment

Fundraising Chair | Purple Group | UW – Seattle | March 2017 – June 2017

- Collaborated with other officers to plan and facilitate meetings for over ten members
- Provided support, resources, and built a safe community for undocumented students
- Became an independent registered student organization
- Collectively fundraised over \$1000 dollars for scholarships for undocumented students

Co-Founder | Undocu Week | UW – Seattle | January 2017 – April 2017

- Created a week consisting of 7+ events to increase awareness of immigration and undocumented student issues on campus and provide empowerment and healing opportunities for undocumented students
- Collaborated with five undocu students to facilitate Undocu 101, Undocu Liberation through Self Expression, Healing through Art, Mental Health, and multiple other workshops with over 50 attendees total

President | Latin@ Student Union | GRC | August 2014 – June 2015

- Planned and facilitated weekly meetings with over twenty members
- Celebrated and educated others about our culture through community building events such as Latino Festival, Dia de los Muertos, Posada Navideña, Valentine’s Day Latino Dance, and Zumba Rumba
- Organized first ever Undocumented and Unafraid event where \$600 was fundraised for an undocu student scholarship
- Donated toys to three low-income families for Christmas

LEAP Peer-Leader | Latino/a Educational Achievement Project | Kent-Meridian HS & GRC | 2012 ~ 2014

- Advocated for the rights of undocumented students amongst legislators, representatives, and senators
- Frequently shared my story at various hearings in the state capital and at Latino Policy Forums
- Presented at various school district board meetings in the Kent School District to advocate for district-wide support
- Educated middle school students about high school programs and success

CO-CURRICULAR INVOLVEMENT, ACHIEVEMENTS, & RECOGNITIONS

Storytellers for Change Ambassador, 2017-2018	OMAD Merit Scholarship Recipient, UW, 2016
Global Law "Advocate's Scholarship" Recipient, 2017	Dean's List, UW Seattle 2016
Seafair Scholarship Program 2 nd Princess, 2017	Mark and DeLaine Emmert Transfer Scholarship, GRC, 2015
GO-MAP Scholarship Recipient, UW, 2017	Leadership Award, GRC Graduation Ceremony 2015
Hispanic Seafair Ambassador, LCF, 2017	Diversity Award, GRC Graduation Ceremony 2015
Washington DC Student Career Trek, 2017	The Real Hope Honors, GRC ODEI Graduation Ceremony, 2015
Hispanic Scholarship Fund Recipient, 2016	Tech Fee Committee Student Representative, GRC, 2014 – 2015
Rise Up Scholarship Recipient, 2013, 2015, 2016	Multicultural Student Congress Representative, GRC, 2014 – 2015
First Year Scholarship, Latinx Student Union, UW, 2016	International Baccalaureate Diploma, Kent-Meridian HS, 2013
First Year Scholarship, Unidas Seremos, UW, 2016	President of MEChA/Latino Club, Kent-Meridian HS, 2012-2013

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

Consulting

Undocu Ally Training at Syracuse University in New York

In collaboration with ECC Director Magdalena Fonseca

- Researched educational and state policies in New York with regards to undocumented students
- Worked directly with a committee that is working to create and present their own trainings on campus
- Facilitated two Undocu Ally Workshops and one full day Undocu Ally Training with 100+ participants
- Increased awareness of undocumented students on campus, taught best practices for staff and faculty to better support undocumented students, and gave support and guidance to those who will lead this work at SU

Research

The Implications of the US Citizenship Exam on Concepts of Citizenship and Americanness

Presented at the UW Undergrad Research Symposium on May 18, 2018

In collaboration with Izet Mendoza Ruiz and Patricia Ruelas Tejeda

Projects

Toy Drive for Detained Immigrant Families | Co-Founder | 2017 – present

- Organize an annual fundraiser for children of families that are detained in the Tacoma immigration detention center and for undocumented families in need
- Create relief baskets for families with clothes, toys, and school supplies
- Deliver toys and supplies every Christmas weekend outside of the detention center or directly to families' homes
- Gathered and purchased over five hundred toys these past three years

DACA Applications Mentor and Preparer | 2014 – present

- Educate community members on how to fill out the DACA paperwork and prepare it for them if needed
- Connect them to financial assistance resources in the community when available
- Provide support and supplies for free
- Helped 40+ individuals throughout the years

MISCELLANEOUS WORK EXPERIENCE

Leather Technician, ReadyJet, SeaTac Airport, July 2016 – January 2017

Cleaning, Atlantic Building Services, June 2016 – August 2016

Waitress, Azteca Mexican Restaurant, Kent WA, April 2014 – January 2016

Immigrant and Refugee Commission

15 Members: Pursuant to *Ordinances 12822 and 120345 and SMC 3.14.545*, [all] members subject to City Council confirmation, [14 [have 2-year terms, (1) Get Engage Member has 1 year term:

- 7 City Council-appointed
- 8 Mayor-appointed
- 0 Other Appointing Authority-appointed (specify):

Roster:

*D	**G	RD	Position No.	Position Title	Name	Term Begin Date	Term End Date	Term #	Appointed By
1	F	5	1.	Member	Maya Babla Appiah	2/1/19	1/31/21	2	Council
			2.	Member	VACANT	2/1/19	1/31/21	1	Council
2	F	1	3.	Member	Medhanit A. Abebe	2/1/19	1/31/21	2	Mayor
			4.	Member	Karen Arlette Gamez Lopez	2/1/19	1/31/21	1	Mayor
1	F	4	5.	Member	Shelani Vanniasinkam	8/1/17	7/31/19	1	Council
			6.	Member	Ilays A. Aden	8/1/19	7/31/21	1	Mayor
			7.	Member	Karina San Juan-Guyton	8/1/19	7/31/21	2	Mayor
8	F	2	8.	Member	Naheed Aaftaab	2/1/18	1/31/20	1	Council
3	F	5	9.	Member	Maria Zepeda Flores	2/1/18	1/31/20	1	Council
2	F	2	10.	Member	Farhiya Mohamed	2/1/18	1/31/20	2	Mayor
5	M	3	11.	Member	Eric Holzapfel	2/1/18	1/31/20	1	Mayor
			12.	Member	VACANT	8/1/18	7/31/20	1	Council
1	F	7	13.	Member	Riddhi Mukhopadhyay	8/1/18	7/31/20	2	Mayor
9	F	2	14.	Member	Ankita Patel	8/1/18	1/31/20	1	Council
9	F	2	15.	Get Engaged Member	Tina Moore	9/1/19	8/31/20	1	Mayor

SELF-IDENTIFIED DIVERSITY CHART

			(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)		
	Men	Women	Transgender	Unknown	Asian	Black/ African American	Hispanic/ Latino	American Indian/ Alaska Native	Other (Specification Optional)	Caucasian/ Non- Hispanic	Pacific Islander	Middle Eastern	Multiracial
Mayor	2	3			2	2							
Council	0	5			2		1					1	1
Other													
Total	2	8			4	2	1					1	1

Key:

- *D List the corresponding *Diversity Chart* number (1 through 9)
- **G List *gender*, M = Male, F= Female, T= Transgender, U= Unknown
- RD Residential Council District number 1 through 7 or N/A

Diversity information is self-identified and is voluntary.