

**Name:** Diana Valdovinos Cabrera

**Grade & School:** 12th grade- Woodburn High School (AIS)

*Extracurricular activities:*

I was in our Leadership Program pre-COVID and helped WHS create and maintain a Campus Pantry, which provided food, clothing and hygiene items for students and their families in our school district. I was also a part of two student leadership organizations; MEChA is on campus and TURNO is through a community organization. Through both of these groups, I have volunteered and participated in fundraising activities. I also participate in multiple activities, conferences, and events that the Migrant Program offers. I have helped with the Love Santa Program by registering families to receive gifts for the holidays. Most recently, I began volunteering for the Love Inc program. I have never been able to volunteer as much as I would really like to because of my unique living situations. I look forward to next year when I am in college and I will be able to do a lot more community service.



*Future goals:*

When I was younger, achieving my goals seemed impossible and unattainable but as I met and communicated with teachers, counselors, and others who showed me otherwise, I learned that the only real obstacle that I have now is whether or not I have the determination needed to succeed. I AM determined to succeed. When thinking about my educational goals, I can't wait to meet new people from all around the world at college, to have rich and meaningful conversations with my classmates and professors and to participate in many different activities. I am truly ecstatic to learn about anything and everything outside of the small community that I grew up in, also while sharing who I am and about where I come from. I want to go to college not just for the degree but also for the full, once in a lifetime, experience. I have so many reasons to be successful in my future and to help kids is my passion. My career goal is to achieve a Masters Degree in Education, as a Bilingual Elementary Teacher. I dream of teaching children in multiple languages so they can communicate and learn from other cultures. My passion to teach children in our community comes from my experience as a student who needed teachers for the love and support that I otherwise was not receiving. I hope to be a trusting and motivating adult to all children so that they can see success in their future no matter what barriers they face.

*Why are you interested in being on the Fiesta Court?*

I'm interested in being on the Fiesta Court because I hope that it will give my peers and other children that assurance that we can accomplish amazing things. All we need is determination and the will to do so. I want to be a strong example to them and teach them all to be confident with who they are. I have struggled with my confidence and in today's world I see many peers

struggle with social anxiety and mental health issues and I think if we treated each other better, treated ourselves better, it wouldn't be so difficult growing up. I know this process will challenge me in ways that will push me out of my comfort zone and I am ready for this challenge. I know it will make me stronger and I can only hope in turn it will help my siblings and other young children stronger as well, to see someone who they can relate to as a representative on the highly respected Fiesta Mexicana Court.

*What do you hope to learn from the experience?*

I hope that by doing these amazing things I can become more confident and learn to accept myself as I do for others. It is very easy for me to find and see amazing things in others, but I struggle when it comes to me. I have difficulty accepting myself. Growing up I have always taken this role to try and be like others and by the time I realized that I could be my own self I was already lost. I know what I want to do and what I love, but I still haven't really found who I am as a person. I also hope to strengthen my communication skills through the different activities and overall just learn how to be a great role model to our community.

*What is the importance of giving back to the community through volunteering/community service?*

Giving back to the community through volunteering and doing community service is really important because not only are we helping our people but we are also shaping ourselves to who we want to be. To me, being able to participate in school activities that will help me gather experience for my future job as a bilingual elementary school teacher means so much! While doing community service we learn and experience many different skills, and even though we might be doing serious work, we have fun. We learn to work in teams, leadership, and get to experience that sense of working on something that we like while benefiting our community.

*What do you like most about Fiesta Mexicana?*

What I like most about the fiesta Mexicana is that it brings people together. We celebrate and embrace our culture, sharing and welcoming others. It makes you proud of who you are. I have only good memories of attending the Fiesta Mexicana celebration and parade. It is a beautiful celebration for young and old and I just have a lot of good and happy memories from when I have attended.