Get to Know Newly Promoted Faculty

Meet the promoted faculty. Whitman students. our community more about their passions, expertise and what they love about

Each fall, we ask newly promoted faculty to participate in a Q&A and share with

new technology, Whitman faculty have been finding time to do more than

research during a global pandemic.

Meet the promoted faculty.

FERNANDO PENATE-CHAVEZ

Assistant Director of Admissions

What is a special item that you keep in your office/workspace and what does

it mean to you?

What are you most passionate about?

Whitman is committed to fostering a diverse environment is something that

I'm passionate about working with students who are much like I was back in

high school. I grew up in a working class family and did not have a lot of

wealth/resources growing up, but I was fortunate enough to have great

teachers and mentors in school and after school who helped me see

past the stereotypes and stigma around keeping kids like me out of

higher education. I want to ensure that Whitman is doing the right

thing by providing the same opportunities for students to continue on

the path to higher education.

How did you get involved in and help form the Dining Services department?

I worked in the dining services department during my time as an

undergraduate student, and continued to do so after graduation. I also

worked on Walla Walla Community College's campus in the same

department. I was able to bring my experience and knowledge to

improve the service and quality of meals at Whitman College.

What do you enjoy most about your job? What do you find most challenging?

The most enjoyable part of my job is seeing students grow and

develop. I also enjoy the variety of tasks that come with being an

Assistant Director of Admissions.

What is your favorite part of working at Whitman?

It's exciting to see how Whitman has grown and evolved over the years,

and to see the impact it has on the lives of students. I'm particularly

proud of the diverse and inclusive environment that Whitman has

created.

What is one thing that you wish you had been able to do while at Whitman?

I wish I had been able to participate in more extracurricular activities,

such as sports or clubs. I think these activities can be a great way to

network and meet new people.

What is one thing that you think the students at Whitman should know about

you?

I'm a strong believer in the power of mentorship. I've had many

people in my life who have helped me get to where I am today, and I

am now in a position to do the same for others. I think it's important

for students to know that there are many people on campus who

are willing to help and support them.