

A Call for Mentors



AS I REFLECT upon the great honor of becoming Eastern's 25th president, I am touched by the memories of all the help I received in my formative years. Many of you, like me, may have been the first in your families to earn a college degree. Like me, you may also appreciate what a difference your education has made in your lives and in the future of your own children.

Here's what I wish to ask of Eastern's alumni and friends: Please consider the possibility of offering your time and talent to help the next generation of Eastern students. Can you provide a summer internship, no matter where you're located in the country? Could you offer a work

opportunity during a portion of the academic year? Can you be a part-time mentor, meeting with a student or group of students to tell stories of the real world in your field of expertise? Could you participate in a classroom?

Of course, financial assistance is always valuable for the University and its students, but what I'm now asking you to do is to give, to give of *yourself*. Your involvement with your alma mater can assist tomorrow's graduates to achieve their dreams and benefit the greater community.

Here's an example of the effect of such assistance. Erin Dietel-McLaughlin, a first-generation college student, graduated from Eastern with a BA in English in 2003. Along her academic journey, two people (who prefer to remain anonymous) encouraged her toward her larger goal – to be able to teach at the university level. One of them helped her apply for the federal McNair Scholars Program (named for Ronald McNair, an astronaut aboard the Challenger space shuttle). The program assists low-income, first-generation students to earn doctoral degrees and return to academia to stand at the head of their own college classrooms. This is a powerful, visible example of achievement for all students, but especially for the next generation of minority students. Erin is now in a master's/PhD program at Bowling Green State University and plans to teach English at a university (if we're lucky, this one).

Please encourage students. Help them however you can. It may seem a cliché to say that one person can make a difference, but I know first-hand that it's true. So does Erin.

I look forward to the years ahead at Eastern Washington University and getting to meet and know many of you personally.

Dr. Rodolfo Arévalo, President

If you are interested in mentoring, you may contact the Office of Alumni Relations at (509) 359- 4550 or Career Planning, Internships and Placement at (509) 359-6365 (<http://careers.ewu.edu/employers/internship>) or stop by on campus: 115 Showalter Hall.

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