



THE SUMMIT

ELEVATING EDUCATION AT BLAINE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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ALUMNI UPDATE - Amy Aranda



"I feel so blessed to be in this community. After losing my mother in a car accident in the fifth grade, I received so much support from staff and peers. This encouragement led me to take on community leadership opportunities."

Amy Aranda, Wood River High School Alumna, Class of 2020

Education is the Way Forward

When Amy Aranda was growing up, her father would tell her that "education was the way forward". The 2020 [Wood River High School](#) graduate took that advice to heart and added to it by taking on leadership opportunities in the community, through volunteering at [The Hunger Coalition](#), [The Flourish Foundation](#) and [The Advocates](#).

Her hard work not only paved the way for a full scholarship at Union College, it also opened the door to travel abroad for school and volunteer work. These past few months, she's been back as a college graduate, working at [The Space](#) in Hailey as the Bilingual Program Coordinator.

Amy comes from a family that has contributed to the community for decades. Her Peruvian grandparents found Idaho in the 1970s through sheepherding, and her father has been working in construction for the past



two decades. Her older siblings were born in Peru and she and her sister were born in Hailey.

She excelled at school and served as president of the student council. Amy gave a memorable speech at graduation - in both English and Spanish. She "wanted to take advantage of the platform to voice her story of being a daughter of immigrants and share the complexity of being Latino but having the privilege of citizenship. "Afterward, a friend's grandpa came up to her and said, "Thank you for seeing my perspective and opening up my views." For Amy, it was a great experience.

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Amy's education is not over. She's looking to pursue a master's degree in policy, education or law, and continue her work with non-profit organizations. We look forward to seeing how much more impact she can make in our community and beyond.

