

FALL 2022

WSU ROAR TRACKS

Official Newsletter of the Washington State University ROAR program



Dear ROAR Community,

Twenty-two students and counting! WSU ROAR currently has 22 students in the program and dozens more participating in fall tour dates, reaching out for more information, and interacting with us on social media. This fall we opened applications early and will have a rolling admissions process. We are excited to meet so many prospective Cougars! The students have been making progress towards their academic, employment, and independent living goals, and staff have been growing professionally as well. Our ROAR staff will be traveling to Arkansas, Arizona, New York, and Florida this semester to present on ROAR and its happenings. In this edition of ROAR Tracks you will find some highlights from the fall semester and some neat collaborations across the WSU campus. [Click here](#) for a ROAR student-lead initiative to purchase limited edition beanies, t-shirts, and hoodies! This event runs through November 15 at 10:00 a.m. PST.

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Transition from Home to Pullman

ROAR students are living in five different locations across Pullman to support their independent living choices of residence halls or apartments, and on/off campus. We are excited to announce that in Fall 2023, all first-year ROAR students will live in the residence halls! After their first year, students will then live in on-campus apartments.

Residence Life



Collaborations

The 2nd Annual Lentil Cook-off

Back by popular demand was the Lentil Cook-Off with the WSU Baseball team. Eleven teams made up of ROAR students and baseball players cooked their chosen lentil dish for three guest judges.

Click [here](#) to see who won!



Kinesiology



ROAR partnered with seniors from the Kinesiology program to help those students plan and prepare their capstone projects. The goal for those Kinesiology students was to create inclusive learning experiences.

Fall Fest @ Airway Hills

October 7 through the 9th, we held the ROAR Fall Fest at Airway Hills. The weekend consisted of ROAR students making a home cooked meal for their families, taking their families on a tour of their classes, playing mini golf, carving pumpkins, and rooting for the Cougars away football game. This was a wonderful opportunity for the students to showcase their independent living skills and classes.



ROAR Tours



This fall we have collaborated with the Brelsford Visitor Center to provide an initial meeting point for ROAR tours. We have had 18 families sign up this fall!



Student Quotes

What has been your favorite event or class this Fall?

"My favorite event was the glow dance, it was rambunctious and I met new people"

"I loved the Lentil Cook-off because we made some good food!"

"I like my history class because it is very inspiring, I have learned so much in just a few months"

"I love my horticulture class, I learn about different types of plants."



New ROAR Staff

GENNA KIEPER

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES COORDINATOR



Genna is a doctoral student in the college's Educational Psychology program. She joined the university in the fall of 2019 after earning her B.A. in Psychology at the University of Kentucky. She has a background in behavioral therapy and research regarding social justice and equity in educational settings. Her passion for diversity and advocacy make programs like ROAR very near and dear to her! She joined the ROAR program in 2019 as a peer ally volunteer, and joined the ROAR staff during the 2020-2021 school year. During her time on staff, she focuses on supporting employment services for the program, developing community employment partnerships, and helping students explore their career interests and passions. In her free time, Genna enjoys playing with her dog, Romi, hiking, cooking, and kayaking!

This winter, what are you most excited about with your involvement in the ROAR program?

I'm super excited to see all of the growth of our students! As a program, we've achieved over 50% paid employment for our students and that would not have been possible without their incredibly hard work and dedication to their career goals.

What made you interested in ROAR?

I worked in applied behavior analysis between my undergraduate and graduate schooling, and while in that field I saw so much potential for people with disabilities when they had the right supports in place and a supportive network of people committed to their success. I wanted to be a part of the ROAR program because of their commitment to integrative and inclusive campus experiences for ROAR students. My research is grounded in equity and justice, and I love being a part of a program that practices what they preach in ensuring our students have access to all opportunities that anyone without a disability would. I've learned so much from our students, and the mutual respect between students and staff is so evident in the ROAR program!

What will you be doing within the ROAR program?

As the employment services coordinator, I work with ROAR students to determine their career goals and help support them in achieving those goals through career advising, work-based learning, and internships and employment. I also work with employers throughout WSU and Pullman to help create inclusive work environments for people with disabilities through advocacy, training, and implementing interventions to help students be successful at their worksites! Lastly, I oversee an incredible staff of job coaches who directly support ROAR students in learning important workplace responsibilities and skills – the employment services team would not survive without their hard work and dedication to supporting our students!