

Kailey Lawless

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EDUCATION

Bachelor of Arts in Social Welfare; Minor in Criminal Justice
University of Washington - Tacoma, WA
GPA: 3.99; Dean's List; Chancellor's Medal

Expected June 2026

Associate Degree in Human Services

December 2025

Tacoma Community College - Tacoma, WA

GPA 4.0; Dean's List; Case Aid Certificate; Chemical Dependency Certificate

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Community-Based Corrections Education Navigator

February 2026 - Present

Pierce College- Lakewood, WA

- Provide education and career navigation for incarcerated, formerly incarcerated, and justice-impacted students pursuing higher education.
- Assist students in identifying barriers and developing education and career plans while connecting them to campus and community resources.
- Build partnerships with community organizations to increase access to higher education and support services for justice-impacted individuals.

Overnight Case Manager, YMCA Social Impact Center - Arlington Apartments

January 2025 - Present

YMCA Greater Seattle- Tacoma, WA

- Provide case management and individualized support to homeless and system-impacted young adults in areas including education, employment readiness, housing stability, and life skills development.
- Use trauma-informed and strengths-based approaches to support residents experiencing housing instability and other barriers.
- Maintain a safe and supportive environment while responding to crisis situations and connecting residents with community resources.

Community Advocate, Behavioral Health Advisory Council

July 2024 - Present

Washington State Health Care Authority- Olympia, WA

- Serve as Subcommittee Chair for Outreach and Communications, helping develop strategies to strengthen community engagement in behavioral health initiatives.
- Provide lived experience perspective to inform state policy discussions related to behavioral health services, funding, and system improvements.

Student Peer Navigator, Husky Post Prison Pathways

October 2024 - February 2026

University of Washington- Tacoma, WA

- Supported formerly incarcerated and justice-impacted students navigating higher education through peer mentorship, resource navigation, and advocacy.
- Assisted with outreach, event planning, and program development to strengthen campus support for justice-impacted students.
- Collaborated with staff to facilitate workshops and training, both on campus and within Washington State prisons.

Legal Intern, Native American Legal Aid Program (NALAP)

Summer 2025

Tacomaprobono Community Lawyers- Tacoma, WA

- Co-created a Continuing Legal Education (CLE) workshop for practicing attorneys, providing training and resources on the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) and minor guardianships.
- Collaborated with attorneys and paralegals in weekly Family Safety Project meetings, analyzing cases related to family safety, custody, and victim services, applying trauma-informed advocacy.

LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

University of Washington- Tacoma, WA

President, Formerly Incarcerated Student Association (FISA) August 2024 - Present

- Founded and lead a student-driven organization supporting justice-impacted students, breaking stigma, fostering empowerment, and promoting community and social impact.

Voting Member, Husky Post Prison Pathways Steering Committee January 2026 - Present

- Engage in strategic planning, policy decisions, and program development to advance access and support for justice-impacted students at the University of Washington.

Senator, ASUWT Student Government April 2025 - Present

- Serve as the voice of Social Work and Criminal Justice students in ASUWT Student Government, holding voting rights and meeting with the Dean to advocate for student needs and influence policies.

Prison Guest Speaker and Mentor, Husky Post Prison Pathways January 2025 - February 2026

- Shared lived-experience and the transformative role of education with incarcerated individuals at correctional facilities, inspiring hope and promoting alternative pathways to reduce recidivism.

Law School Prep Director, Women in Law Society April 2025 - February 2026

- Researched and gathered information from law schools, shared resources and provided support to students in LSAT preparation and law school applications.

Voting Member, Student Activities Fee Committee October 2024 - February 2026

- Reviewed and evaluated annual funding proposals from campus departments, recommending approvals, adjustments, or edits to support effective allocation of student activity fees.

Tacoma Community College- Tacoma, WA

Powwow Planning Committee January 2024 - March 2024

- Planned and coordinated cultural events, including Indigenous beading, Bingo, Rez Ball, and the 14th Annual TCC Powwow, promoting community engagement and cultural awareness.

President, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, Chi Gamma Chapter December 2023 - July 2024

- Led Phi Theta Kappa, Chi Gamma Chapter, raising funds for a national leadership conference, earning 3rd place in honors-in-action research, and organizing a backpack drive for Workforce Education.

Student Senator, Associated Students of Tacoma Community College November 2023 - August 2024

- Represented the student body by listening to diverse needs, identifying equitable solutions, and advocating for policies and initiatives that support student success.

Co-Founder, TCC Recovery 12 Step Group September 2023 - August 2024

- Co-founded TCC Recovery 12-Step Group, organizing weekly meetings, a recovery awareness event with local resources, guest speakers, and Narcan training

SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

University of Washington Tacoma Chancellor's Medal (2025-2026)

Husky 100 Award (2025-2026)

Governor's Student Civic Leader Award (2025)

Chancellor's Student Civic Leader Award (2025)

Club Leader of the Year, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society (2023-2024)

Senator of the Quarter, Tacoma Community College (Spring 2024)

Tolo Foundation Scholarship (2025–2026)

Dressel Scholars Program Mentoring and Scholarship University of Washington Tacoma (2025–2026)

APIA (Asian Pacific Islander American) Scholars Program Scholarship (2025–2026)

PSA Phi Beta Kappa Scholarship (2025-2026)