

Lets Hear From EWU'S Class Of 2024 Graduates!



Top of class , Valedictorian, Hi-bret Deres, Electronics Engineering “During my time at the University, I went through tremendous challenges as so many other students encounter. I worked many hours in various jobs in order to support myself, pay tuition and cover my other expenses. In addition, I am also sending money to my family back in Ethiopia on a regular basis. Furthermore, The Covid-19 pandemic occurred two months after I joined the university. However, I overcame these challenges with the unlimited support from my professors and my dedication and determination to achieve my goals in life.”



Malissa Lewis, Business Major: “Good morning, today is our graduation day, which is a sad but beautiful day. I am going to miss East-West so much, I feel like I am leaving my home away from home”



Yesenia Zendejas, Business Administration:

I would like to quote Sandra Cisneros: “I’ve put up with too much, too long, and now I’m just too intelligent, too powerful, too beautiful, too sure of who I am finally to deserve anything less.”



Congrats!



TOP OF THE CLASS



Eraj Ansari, Business Administration:

“I am going to receive a degree from the US, I am so lucky. Thank you, East-West University, you gave me the chance to be a graduate. It is so.... I have no words! Thank you!”



Eulises Campos, EET:

“Hi East-West! I am very happy to be here on graduation day. As EET major, I am very grateful to my department. We worked hard, it has been a long journey, but this is only the first stage, ha-ha!”

2024

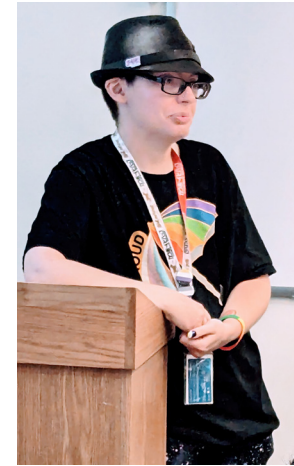
Faculty, Board Members, Provost and Chancellor



GRAD



TAKE **PRIDE** IN WHO YOU ARE!



Prof. Nat Wrhel held a q&a session with students in honor of the pride month.



The event was organized by East-West students: Malissa Lewis (in the picture), Yese-nia Zendeas, Ellie Choul-na-sa-Valdes



Pride Month celebration By Nat Wrhel

On Thursday, June 6, East-West University held its second annual Pride event for students and faculty. The event was put on by the students of Group Dynamics class and included food, music, and games for participants. The event embraced all forms of LGBTQ+ identity and served to educate the campus community on various forms of sexuality and gender identity.

One component of the celebration was a Q & A session with adjunct English professor Nat Wrhel, who discussed asexuality and nonbinary identity. They began by talking a bit about their own academic research and experiences as a member of these communities, then opened the floor for questions from attendees. This led to a lively discussion regarding identity in general, intersectionality, and how Pride



EWU'S Press Poetry

By: Alexis Johnson



Pick It Up

Pick it up :
 Pick it up
 Pick up your heart
 Pick up the pieces
 Shattered
 Broken
 Crushed
 Pick it up
 It doesn't belong there
 There on the ground
 Shattered, Broken ,Crushed
 Pick it up
 Pick up the pieces
 Pick it up
 Never let it break again
 pick it up

Should I

Should I ?
 Go to school , Should I ?
 Get a degree , should I ?
 Study Abroad , Should I ?
 What Should I Do !
 Pay off all my debt, should I ?
 Have a house and kids ,
 should I ?
 Buy a fancy car, should I ?
 What Should I Do !
 The Worlds Thinks You
 should have it altogether
 Listen to the world , should I ?

Grief

devastated
 Lost
 Out of control
 Looking for guidance
 This is my grief
 Nightmares
 Sweats
 Memories
 This is my grief
 Loneliness
 Depression
 Drugs
 This is my grief
 Healing
 Living
 Smiling
 Is what I day dream of
 But all of the above
 Is my grief



EWU'S Academic Policy

EWU understands that life happens. If you had series of life events which brought your GPA below 2.0, you may benefit from this policy:

Academic forgiveness policy

Academic forgiveness allows an undergraduate to continue work toward a EWU degree without being severely burdened by one term with a high proportion of low or failing grades. It is designed to help students on their path to graduation (not to improve an otherwise passing GPA, e.g. for a future graduate school or job application).

Academic forgiveness means that all credits and all grades for a given term are excluded from the computation of a student's grade point average and completion rate, and the hours earned during that term will not be counted toward graduation. The courses will remain on the student's permanent academic record, the grades will be replaced by Academic Forgiveness (GF grade).

Through this process, a motivated student may receive a second chance to work towards a baccalaureate degree with a new grade point average.

Academic forgiveness is an extreme measure: it will be granted only once to an individual student, and only when the student provides clear and convincing evidence of a renewed commitment to advancing their education.

Academic forgiveness may affect financial aid and veterans' benefits; Financial Aid can provide more details.

Eligibility

Students may be considered for academic forgiveness if they are currently enrolled at EWU, and are on academic probation. They may apply for academic forgiveness after the completion of the preceding quarter with satisfactory performance. Satisfactory performance is defined as a grade point average of at least 2.00 quarterly ("term") GPA in the quarter preceding the application when the student was enrolled at EWU as a full time student (12 or 14 credit hours) and no course withdrawals.

Procedure

1. Fill in the petition form (available at the registrar's office), including the approval signature from the program director.
2. Attach a formal letter of request. The letter requesting academic forgiveness must include a statement of the student's academic plans and a rationale for the student's academic forgiveness request.
3. Provide additional information (for example, employment history, letters of support, samples of recent writing, or documentation of successfully completed projects) to aid the committee in its decision.
4. The Registrar will deliver the application package to the SAP Committee, who will make the final decision (in consultation with the program director, if needed).

If academic forgiveness is granted, then:

It will apply to all credits attempted and earned by the student in the term(s) for which forgiveness is requested.

The student's transcript will have a notation typed on it stating: "Academic forgiveness granted effective [date of action] for Term, year to Term, year quarters (semesters, terms)." All courses and grades received during the terms of academic forgiveness will no longer be calculated in the grade point average and will not apply toward graduation. All coursework will remain on the transcript, and the grades will be replaced by Academic Forgiveness (GF grade).

Catholic Forensic League Debate Tournament Research Poster Competition

Catholic Forensic League Debate Tournament

By Sherena Sanders

I feel sorry for you if you missed this exciting, amazing experience of the 2024 National Catholic Forensic League tournament here in our own town Chicago. This was a two-day tournament this year, May 25th and May 26th and East-West had the wonderful opportunity to be a part of this amazing history. Let me give you a little history on the National Catholic Forensic League (NCFL), this league I had never heard of. The NCFL is a speech and debate league that was put together in 1951. The leagues are organized into regions in reference to the Roman Catholic dioceses, the members are from all over the United States and from private and public high schools. The competition has six speech events and four debate events, public forum debate, policy debate, and dramatic performance.

What I had the opportunity to witness here at East West University: I had a wonderful conversation with the league head, and I was given so much information on how the league works, the debates and how they prepare for the big day. I also learned that the famous actor Josh Gad graduated from the university school of Nova Southern University in 1999 and he was a winner of the national Forensic League tournament championship in 1998; he also won 1999. Who is this, you ask? Josh is the voice of Olaf in Frozen and he also won an Academy Award for his role as best actor.

Before I got to experience the wonderful 2024 national catholic forensic league, I was actually asked to assist the highschoolers around the school and of course, I showed my East-West hospitality. As I went from floor to floor, all you could hear was the screams from different rooms of the different performances and debates. Once the doors are closed, they are taught it is extremely rude to enter so as I waited patiently with the tired jet lagged kids and they asked could they perform for me for practice, in my head SCREAMING OF COURSE!!!! I was extremely overexcited because I was amazed by the talent.

I was told they could practice for a year and the role of the debate could be reversed immediately that day. I was in such shock: so if I was to practice all year as pro-choice and today I am no longer pro-choice? I was completely shocked. The kids told me that's how you stay prepared: you have to train for both sides and be prepared for whichever role given although the title cannot be changed. When the children performed the dramatic performance, they could not touch each other at all, look at each other, pause or help one another, they must be on point and the judges will alert them of time running out. The performances from the students were so amazing.

This is always a closed setting because there are so many people involved the entire school was packed with screams and thuds and hollering.

the debate kids are trained to be prepared for lives as politicians, leaders, and any sort of political figure; this program also has the training for them to be possible actors like Mr. Gad and many more.

I have never witnessed anything like this from the speeches, the debates and the performances. I am blown away totally.

I was informed that they were also at Columbia, the Hilton, and the Ohare Hotel all performing, but before they leave there will be a dinner, and the winners will be listed. There have to be over 1000 students here, so I can imagine the excitement they must have to hopefully see how well they performed. They were also dressed so nicely, if I may add!

The judge told me there are two tournaments: this here in Chicago has four preliminary rounds; based on the scores they will all go back to the hotels and prepare for the last performance/debate before they go home with the winning trophy. You want this to be a learning experience; the performers have the opportunity to judge new performers once they graduate from high school.

This has been an amazing experience.

By Muhammad Ammar

Date: Wednesday, June 5th, 2024

Time: 2:00 PM

Location: 4th Floor, East West University

The air on the fourth floor of east west university is filled with anticipation as Professor Whel's class prepares for their research poster presentation. Excited chatter and the shuffling of feet reverberated through the hallway, signaling the imminent commencement of the event. With posters lined up along the walls, each representing a unique research endeavor, attendees eagerly await the opportunity to engage with the diverse array of topics on display. Armed with a notepad and camera, I approach each presenter, eager to capture the essence of their research endeavors amidst the bustling crowd.

Carlos stands before his poster, his eyes alight with enthusiasm as he delves into the intricacies of his research. "TikTok has become a ubiquitous presence in the lives of college students," Carlos explains, "My study explores its impact on attention spans and cognitive functioning." With animated gestures, he articulates his findings, drawing connections between excessive social media usage and diminished attentional resources.

Rafay's poster is adorned with striking images of polluted waterways and distressed ecosystems, serving as a poignant reminder of the urgency of his research. "The indiscriminate disposal of waste poses a grave threat to our planet's fragile ecosystems," Rafay declares, "My study seeks to raise awareness about the devastating consequences of pollution on water quality and biodiversity." His impassioned plea for environmental stewardship resonates with attendees, igniting a sense of urgency to address pressing ecological challenges.

Khushi's poster features futuristic depictions of robots adorned with emotive expressions, sparking intrigue among onlookers. "The prospect of artificial emotional intelligence raises profound questions about the nature of consciousness and empathy," Khushi muses, "My research delves into the technological and ethical implications of imbuing robots with human-like emotions." Her thought-provoking exploration of the intersection between technology and humanity prompts lively discussions among attendees.

David's poster features eye-catching graphics illustrating the addictive nature of TikTok and its potential impact on mental health. "TikTok addiction has emerged as a pressing concern among young adults," David observes, "My study examines strategies for mitigating the negative effects of excessive social media usage, from digital detoxes to mindful consumption practices." Attendees nod in agreement, recognizing the importance of promoting digital wellness in an increasingly interconnected world.

Eraj's poster exudes empathy and concern for the well-being of children in an era dominated by digital media. "The proliferation of social media platforms and digital devices has given rise to a generation plagued by anxiety and depression," Eraj laments, "My research sheds light on the psychological toll of constant connectivity and offers insights into fostering healthy media habits among young people." His poignant reflections strike a chord with attendees, prompting introspection about the societal impact of technological advancements.

Gisselle's poster showcases urban landscapes meticulously designed for sustainability and livability, offering a glimpse into the future of urban development. "Smart growth principles hold the key to building resilient cities that can thrive in the face of environmen



tal and social challenges,” Gisselle asserts, “My research explores innovative approaches to urban planning, from mixed-use development to green infrastructure, that prioritize the well-being of residents and the planet.” Attendees nod in agreement, inspired by Gisselle’s vision for creating inclusive and sustainable communities.

Marina’s poster features heartwarming images of interspecies friendships, challenging conventional notions of animal behavior and socialization. “The bonds forged between different species offer a glimpse into the remarkable capacity for empathy and cooperation inherent in all living beings,” Maria explains, “My research explores the factors that facilitate interspecies relationships, from shared habitats to mutualistic interactions, shedding light on the intricacies of cross-species communication and companionship.” Attendees smile at the heartwarming anecdotes shared by Maria, captivated by the transformative power of interspecies connections.

Tanisha’s poster features cutting-edge applications of artificial intelligence designed to enhance human engagement and productivity. “AI has the potential to revolutionize the way we interact with technology and each other,” Tanisha observes, “My research explores innovative AI-driven solutions for fostering human engagement, from personalized recommendations to conversational agents, that adapt to individual preferences and needs.” Attendees nod in agreement, intrigued by Tanisha’s vision for harnessing AI to enrich human experiences and relationships. Amidst the throng of attendees, I engage in conversation with two individuals to garner their perspectives on the presentations. **Emily** reflects on the crowded nature of the event, remarking, “The sheer volume of attendees speaks to the widespread interest in the research being presented. However, the noise level made it challenging to fully engage with each presenter’s work.”

Michael expresses admiration for the presenters’ dedication to their respective fields of study. “Each project offers a unique lens through which to explore pressing societal issues,” he observes, “I was particularly intrigued by the diversity of topics and the depth of insight showcased by the students.”

As the research poster presentation ends, I am struck by the palpable sense of intellectual curiosity and passion that permeates the room. While the crowded nature of the event made it difficult to fully absorb each presenter’s findings, the breadth and depth of the research showcased underscore the transformative power of academic inquiry. Moving forward, I suggest exploring alternative venues or scheduling smaller, more intimate presentations to ensure that attendees can engage with the material more effectively. Overall, the event serves as a testament to the importance of fostering a culture of intellectual exploration and dialogue within our academic community.

Competition Winners!

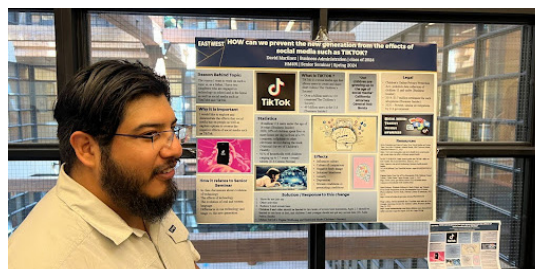
The first place Carlos Trejo

Second place Khushi Janni

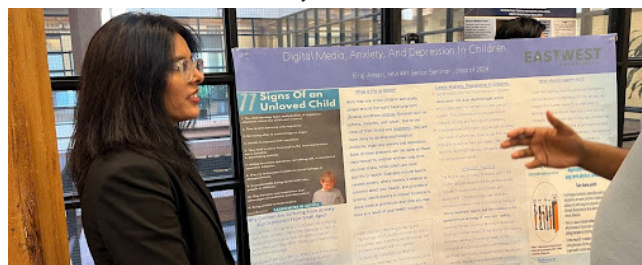
Third place David Martinez



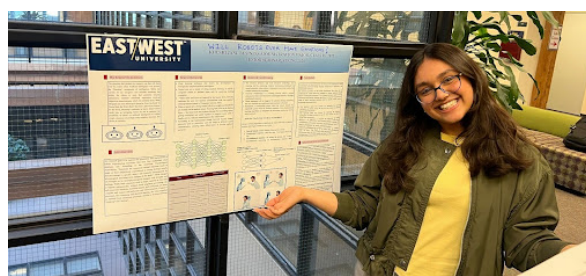
David Martinez



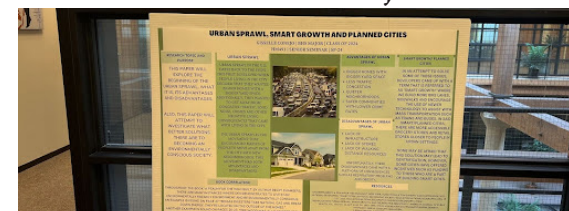
Eraj Ansari



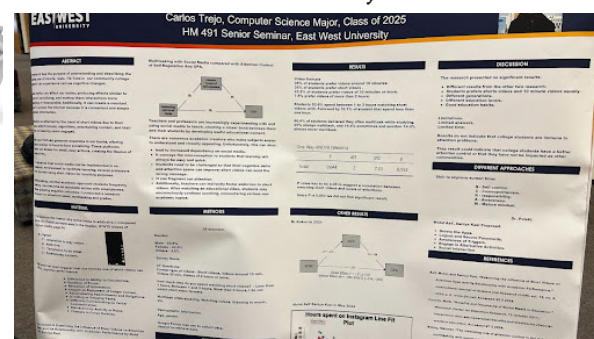
Khushi Janni



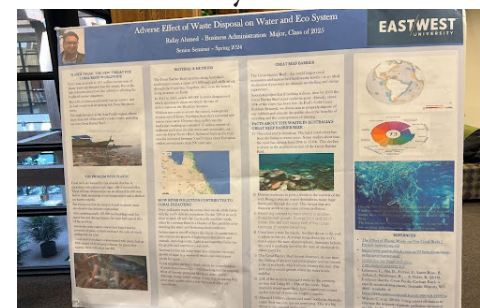
Gisselle Conejo



Carlos Trejo



Rafay Ahmed



National Small Business Day

By Marco Brown

I went to the National Small Business Day event hosted by the Group Dynamics class of East West University to spotlight our students who are involved in a business. The event brought together many EWU students who are local entrepreneurs. The atmosphere was friendly and vibrant, with booths set up by businesses ranging from homemade crafts to local food vendors.

The highlight for me was the variety of the many different products that were on display. I discovered a great area where they would make homemade goods and a smell good station where they would make great scents. There were also several informative booths where they gave you advice about business planning, which can be very helpful to aspiring entrepreneurs.

The atmosphere at the small business event was friendly. People were excited and happy, creating a welcoming environment. Booths were colorful and exciting to see, with business owners eager to show their products and chat with visitors. There was a lot of energy in the air, making it a fun place to be. Despite being busy and a bit noisy, the overall feeling was positive and engaging.

I would say the event was well organized. The layout was pretty clear, with

the stands over each booth directing people to the correct booths and workshops. Volunteers were available to help with questions or you could even ask the friendly business owners. Everything started on time. Despite being crowded the event ran smoothly, making it enjoyable for everyone.

The Small Business showcase event was a good experience, it helped many small business owners get recognition. Each business owner took the time to introduce their products and share the origins of their businesses. For example, Kyla has a stand of smelling good scented products, inspired by a family member who passed away and loved fragrances. Kyla also says that she loves fragrances and just to smell good. She also gave me some valuable advice about staying "patient" as running a small business requires a lot of time, effort, and money.

While the event was enjoyable and informative, I do wish it was held in a larger area. The space was quite crowded, which made it difficult to move around and fully approach each booth. The noise level inside the area was pretty high so it made conversations with business owners pretty hard to hear and understand what they were talking about. I feel the like the event was of a small duration. The event was pretty short, limiting the amount of time to

explore all the booths and interact with them. There were many networking opportunities, allowing businesses and individuals to connect and share ideas. I saw many business owners exchange contact information and talk about ways they could work together with their customers. It was a good chance to make new connections and learn from others.

Small Business Review By Abigail Gonzelez

On Thursday, May 9 2024, students from the East West University held a pop-up to showcase their small business. This happened at the 829 South Wabash building entrance, from 2pm - 4pm.

My class and I went downstairs at 2 pm to support our fellow classmates. There were 6 stands all around showcasing beautiful and unique items. Some students were selling food and drinks to support what they held dear to their hearts. Others were selling items like jewelry, hats and beauty supplies.

The first small business I decided to interview was called "Las Divinas", the stand was by a woman called Jessie Virafuentes. She was selling all kinds of jewelry, from necklaces to nose rings. Jessie said she always wanted to have a business from a young age and started her business at

17 with no kind of help. She struggles along the way but made it through just like any good story business.

Jessie is a re-vender and gets her supplies in big bundles and she sells it to other small businesses. She spends her time selling her items in flea markets and around her local neighborhood areas. "I sell 7 hours out in the sun but it's worth the money." Jessie says.

Are They Business Ready? By David Dominguez

Another regular day was what I expected going in the classroom, either writing a paper about what Professor Adams had in store for us or making us do another group project which, to be honest, I liked doing presentations about AI, but that's besides the point because on this occasional day there was a fair, or to be more precise a business fair. Something new were I had the expectation on a higher degree than what was actually shown but then again I did not know what to expect since it was my first business fair and I don't have much to compare it to but other than the lack of people doing business it was a great event having a limited sized pool of people to pull out the event from there were people selling you shirts, food, perfume, and more would it be pricey? of course it will, but it comes to show that life is made this way from our young hard working

entrepreneurs. This was an event made by Maria Polski an Associate director of the English communication program at East-West University the whole point of the event was to expose the students into a preparation for their business in order to let the others ponder or stare in surprise about the innovations the older students had overall compared to the younger ones and to give an example. With that in mind we can suggest that it was for the most part successful I for one have never been into a business fair and it was a new experience were it had me rethinking about the idea of how should a person represent themselves in a business and as I was looking around in that same fair in the first floor on the (SPC) building I just knew I had to try and challenge the young entrepreneurs by asking them as many questions about their business models as possible and why they decided to go on with their example. With a new mission in mind I started thinking about how can I possibly attack the students if I have no prior experience with a business all I know is that people need a list of how much money they are making and how much money they were spending along having an LLC for tax purposes and Identifying what type of business they are I chose an unfortunate business owner by the name of Kyla Flowers

now we can go into detail about what colors of shirt she like to make or what is simple to make since she has done accessories but I insisted with a simple and basic question. What made you pursue this? The love of accessories whether it is beanies, scrunchies or any type of hat she would like to make and has a little hobia in poetry. Her inspirations come from her grandmother that taught her how to sew which is pretty, honestly that is cool and I asked her do you have a business name? And the answer to that is Kyla's spaceship. Which again awesome it shows that this is coming from her inner child trying to pursue a dream and make the most of what she can even thought she is a Junior in college and still does not have a LLC or a close idea of what specific business model to do she had a passion and a dream and is chasing it which being honest that is more than what even most adults are doing with their life chasing a dream that you had for success and her final statement what is the inspirational quote she decided to give back and as expected MS. Flowers has a quote tied to her character "Do You" so simple and yet so complex a little reminder that the dreams you might have had when you were a child can still be pursued even if you are unsure of how to do it, but the unfor-

tunate sense and morality has been decided that she is not business ready truly the first person I asked had a dream and a goal but they do not have many clues or even the idea of what that goal would be for her to pursue in the future and unfortunately people can't live out of just dreams alone a cooking fanatic is next in the chopping block (Pun intended) we have Ms. Walker will she be the same as Ms. Flowers, a girl with a dream or will she be even more prepared.

Now as you might of have figured it out because of the intended pun I tried to do before Ms. Walker has a business that is based on food, something that being honest some people like other people love now. As I like to do repetition I asked her the same question and she gave me a good answer and that is What made you pursue this? Ever since she was a little girl she has liked cooking and likes making people happy which by itself can be pretty noble if you compare it with other dreams she is trying to specialize herself with other kinds of food not only from her ethnic background but others as well reaching out to other places and uniting them something that is noble indeed but it is also a bit ignorant as to how most people will never get along with one another like that old saying "Sticks and

stones may break my bones but words sure won't" even though times have change if you were to compare it forms fifty years ago but we also are not the same as we were fifty years ago with the internet uniting us more now than ever before and the quote that I asked her for was "Connect with food" a belief of achieving love, peace or even unity through food a concept that has been discovered before and has worked but also has backed fired immensely too something more complex into having love with food but that is besides the point because like her good friend Ms. Flowers she also does not have an LLC or any idea in what kind of business model she wants to have so she is also not business ready but similar to Ms. Flowers, Ms. Walker is a girl with a dream and a goal to push forward whether they are successful or not I won't know but time will tell.

Next up we have Ms. Alexandria Jarmin In the house will she be like her other friends or is she business ready that is something we will find out now, Ms. Jarmin a college senior at our school East - West University I started the conversation with her by asking her what made you pursue this? She said "I have liked doing cosmetics and fashion but I am tired of working under anyone" Something that I appreciate

a lot of Ms. Jarmin is that she is clear cut with her answers and judging from her personality will tell you how things are and how they will be I decided to ask he if she had a specialized quote or something and she told me "If it doesn't challenge you it will not help you" which got to say a solid Idea for the senior but similar to how her other friends she also does not have and LLC or a license to do this so she is also not business ready but she is more advanced than her friends.

Dayanara Flores Review

I attended the National Small Business Day event in EWU at the 829 South Wabash entrance, on May 9th, at 2 P.M. - 4 P.M. At the event I saw different stands advertising different products. One of the things that I liked about the event was how tempting everything is and how I wanted to see what I can get from those stands, and how beautiful the items were. But one thing that I wasn't a fan of was how you had to pay for everything, like there wasn't a stand that had a deal that if you bought something you can get another item for free, but it's a business so I understand, I just wish they had that as an option. Another thing that I liked about the event was that there weren't just physical items like accessories but they also had food which

was an amazing touch which I very much enjoyed. But one thing that I noticed was that the space where the event was held was pretty small, so there weren't as many booths as I imagined but maybe it wasn't about the space but of the amount of people coming, but either way it felt small, so I hope next event there will be more booths and people. One booth I saw was called "Las Divinas" which was held by Jessie Virafuentes. I saw her booth on May 9th, at EWU South Wabash entrance. I met her after 2 since the event started at 2 P.M. She was selling the 2 top pictures and the left bottom picture. The pictures consist of jewelry (which were absolutely beautiful when I saw them at the event), makeup, and hello kitty accessories. One question I asked her was "How much money have you made by selling this?" and her response was "In an average, I usually sell at a few flea markets. I make around \$32 an hour, which I sell 7 hours in the sun, which is worth the money, and I only work 2 days. Sometimes I pick up some events, like selling here. I have sold at Navy Pier, Fiesta del sul, and many other events." Another question I asked was "What year are you?" and her response was "I'm a freshman." I really liked her booth and I enjoyed seeing her booth's accessories.

Another booth I saw was called “Queen Kay’s Scruls” which was held by Queen Kay, she just referred herself like that to us. I saw her booth on May 9th, at EWU South Wabash entrance. I met her after 2 since the event started at 2 P.M. She was selling the 2 bottom pictures. The picture’s consist of different nail colors in little bags with different things inside. One question I asked her was “How much do you make selling this on an average day?” and her response was “Um, I’m relaunching. Actually, for example, everything right here on this table is my first time. So, so far today, been kinda good. I had 6 sales today.” The other question I asked was “Are you a freshman? A senior?” and her response was “Senior.” Overall I liked her booth even though unfortunately I didn’t buy anything (I didn’t have any money), her booth was really colorful with the different color mini bags.

Kevin Mendez-Herrera Review

East-West University hosts a variety of activities during the academic year. Therefore, I was able to attend the National Small Business events, a pop-up for fellow entrepreneurs to display their small enterprises, hosted by Kyla Flowers, Alyssa Hernandez, and Professor Polski. The National Small Business Day took place at the University of East-West. It

is on the first floor of 829 South Wabash from 2 PM to 4 PM, near the bookshop. Hence, Kayla Flowers, Alyssa Hernandez, and Professor Polski hosted and supported this Business Day event. Walking towards the bookshop, you’ll notice ten entrepreneurs scattered across the area, waiting for individuals to approach them with questions. Students of various grade levels wander around, unsure where to begin. As a result, the event provided an excellent opportunity for many of these entrepreneurs to network with one another, promote their small businesses, and perhaps make a few sales.

Now, I’ll discuss the upsides and aspects I loved about attending this event. I loved that this event was open to all classes, including first-year students, sophomores, juniors, and seniors. When you go around the area, you will see many tables with the entrepreneur’s business name and logo and provided business cards to students on their tables. Moreover, each table featured many products related to their business’s central focus. When I approached the entrepreneur’s table, they were smiling, prepared for the event, and eager to answer any questions regarding their business. Not only were they providing information about their business, but they were also selling products via their

websites and social media platforms. Each stand had a paper sheet displaying the goods and their prices. The primary thing I liked about this event was how professionally organized it was, and each business had some kind of niche. For instance, businesses focused on jewelry, perfume, cosmetics, food, fashion, and other services listed on their business cards. However, there were a few downsides to attending this event. Something that I didn’t enjoy about this event was that it only lasted one day; I believe it should have been two days long and held at various times. Even though a handful of people were present, there were fewer students than usual because classes were in session. I believe that if it had been arranged at two different times over two days, more students and professors would have had the opportunity to see the faces of these fellow entrepreneurs. Aside from that, the space where it was held was pretty loud, making it difficult for me to hear what the entrepreneurs had to say to answer my questions. Furthermore, when I asked a question, several entrepreneurs were not as communicative as I expected, responding with only 4-5 words and asking them to elaborate. Aside from that, I believe that more small businesses in Chicago should have been invited

to participate in this event to ensure a mix of student entrepreneurs and well-known companies in the Chicago area.

As I began my search to interview more of these student entrepreneurs, the first business I came across was Jessie Virafuentes’s jewelry business, “Las Divinas.” She is currently a freshman and a full-time student at East-West University. Jessie mentions that she has spent her whole life selling jewelry, including rings, necklaces, and bracelets. Jessie claims that she considered starting her own business when she was 12, but after some consideration, she could do it at 17. In addition, Jessie gets her items from a large business and resells them at places like Navy Pear, flea markets, and Chicago. She spends hours under the sun, but it is worthwhile because she makes a lot of money. Jessie also notes that she makes up to \$2,000 at each event, around \$32 per hour, depending on sales. When asked how she handles corporate social responsibility, she replied, “I tried to help many of these businesses as much as I could because no one took me seriously when I was 17.” Who would take a 17-year-old seriously about starting a business? Nobody did. I threw myself out there. Nobody helped me. My father slammed the doors on me.” In terms of caring for the environ-

ment, she has inspired many individuals, assisted several small companies, and provided opportunities for people at events. Her motivation to keep striving comes from the fact that she does not have to work for anyone. She can plan her day, meet new people, and be on her phone whenever.

Another student entrepreneur I interviewed was Kyla Tashay, a first-year student at East-West University. She is a Chicago-based crochet artist known as “Kyla’s Spaceship.” Kyla claimed she picked up crochet from her grandmother and aimed to be a fashion designer. So far, she’s been knitting for about a month and has taught herself how to do it. Nonetheless, she knits most items, including hats, scrunchies, headbands, and beanies. In price wise, she pays for most of the materials, which can be roughly \$50-\$100, depending on the quantity of yarn. Kyla also told me that when she knits her items, she follows a specific design, such as applying stripes and alternating colors. When I asked what motivates her, she answered, “My grandma motivates me. She recently passed away, so I picked up where she left off.” Kyla wanted to carry on her grandmother’s legacy by doing what she liked doing the most. She noted that her business has been successful, but she

must consistently complete most of her orders on time. Aside from that, although she only launched her business a month ago, she hopes to make six figures in a year because she receives many orders daily.

Aside from interviewing student entrepreneurs, I came across several visitors at this event. Therefore, I first encountered Officer Guen, a security guard from the University of East-West. At the time, he was thrilled to attend the event to learn more about the businesses and their offerings. When I asked him whether he enjoyed the event, he said it was a fantastic opportunity for students to learn how many companies function. Additionally, he mentions that if one is considering opening a business, one can turn to these student entrepreneurs for assistance and guidance. Another visitor I encountered was James, who works at the bookstore. He notes that it provided an excellent opportunity for individuals to network with one another. When I asked him which were his favorites, he enjoyed the businesses that involved food since it reminded him of his early childhood. As a result, he was pleased to have the opportunity to go and has no regrets.

In a Nutshell, National Small Business Day was a big success for many of these student entrepreneurs in promoting themselves

and raising their profile. Kyla Flowers, Alyssa Hernandez, and Professor Polski did an excellent job hosting this event by inviting many students, organizing it, and incorporating a raffle for attendees. Most student entrepreneurs were polite, respectful, and highly intriguing businesses with creative products. As someone who attended this event, I rate it 9/10 since I had a great time learning more about the businesses, was able to purchase some things, and had fantastic food. I hope more companies participate in future events like this and host in a less loud area.

Heidi Juan Delmoral Review

To make all of this possible, Dr. Poloski assisted in organizing and providing advice to Kyla Flowers and Alissa Hernandez, who hosted the event. I met students from my class who were taking part in the business event, as well as new students that I had never met before. Everyone was friendly, and it was a positive experience to see students who were motivated to keep going and work hard. When I first started going to the event that Dr. Adams had invited me and my classmates to, we went to the first floor on the west side of the building by 829 South Wabash and we joined the event with all the business people. Professor Polski made a very interesting observation about how some students have a

superhero identity that is hidden from the public, yet they nevertheless put in a lot of effort to achieve their goals.

However, for this particular event called National Small Business Day, everyone was so happy and positive about their business, offering good deals for it, and socializing. After what I was observing, I got to know one of the business people who were there, and I asked them two questions and two quotes and conversed about how they felt about their small business. And Kyla Willis claimed that her mother, grandmother, uncle, and aunt served as her inspiration for continuing in the perfume industry. She also claimed that she likes girls who have nice scents. I also wanted to know how she came up with the titles for her line of perfumes. She claimed that her mother chose the names and that most of the names were selected as a result of the passing of her uncle. As a result, her mother essentially played around with the names she mentioned. In addition, she provides massages and body waxing services. In response to my second question, which inquired if it was difficult to make this, she answered that it was simple, like if you wanted to make it. In response to my second question, which questioned if it was difficult to make, she answered that it wasn't; rather, she

added that it was just like trying to have fun if you wanted to get the most out of something. Ultimately, it becomes more of a hobby. She also gave me two quotes: "Never say you can't always believe you can" and "Always put your mind to it; don't ever doubt yourself." On the other hand, I went up to Kahlea Slaughter. She enjoys having her nails, lashes, and makeup done; thus, beauty served as inspiration. She also mentioned that she always wanted to start her own business, which is why she is also supplying medical scrubs. She also stated that she would watch YouTube videos and podcasts in order to become involved and build a business. Since she is a biology student and intends to work in the medical area, her name, Shrubs, stands for medical scrubs. She stated she enjoys negative evaluations because they help her involve her business in the end, so I also mentioned to her that if she is willing to hear criticism, that is. She also said that although she had hoped for a perfect business, beginning a business is never going to be perfect, and that although she hasn't heard any criticism, she is ready for it. She shared two quotes with me: "faith over fear" and "always believe in yourself and stay consistent."

Overall, after that, I found myself near Professor Polski. And I asked her

what she thought of these business students at East West University, and she said she takes her hand off these people; they are great, and she is shocked that they are still in school and passing their classes since you have to take care of your family and business in addition to completing your studies. Also, I asked her what she did in order to make this event happen, and she replied that she patted herself on the back for bringing them here for her group dynamics lesson, but she was the one who planned everything and offered them guidance, saying she's proud. For the two quotes she shared with me, she said, "I wouldn't be able to do what they are doing," and "It requires a unique talent, determination, and admiration for them; she understands that it takes courage and a special kind of talent that no one else can possess." She claims to be proud of herself, even though she acknowledges that it is something she isn't capable of doing. She added that she sees students in the college hallways, and we don't even suspect that they have this secret life going on—like a superhero with a secret identity. She also mentioned that she knows there are more students doing business and that many students are out there working, but she expects them to see them there. Additionally, I approached James, the man outside

the bookstore, and I asked him two questions. What does he think of the special event? He believes it's a fantastic chance for them to meet new people, like me, for instance, and to be receptive to being inspired and desiring to launch a business after realizing a vision. When I asked him whether he thought these businesses could expand, he replied that people should take advantage of this chance to start learning what it takes to run a business correctly and use that knowledge to create a better company in the future. He also provided me with the two quotes that I had asked him to provide. stated, "Getting the opportunity to meet new people and sell your products is always a great experience, a confidence boost, as well as something that makes you feel good and gives you the opportunity to make others feel good," and "always This is an excellent beginning for them, but persevere since consistency is often the key. Don't give up on what you do or don't do today; simply face it and learn from it.

In summary, I give this event a 10/10 because it's a great start for these students at East West University. I was also very impressed by the students, and I agree with Professor Polski that more students should be involved in this kind of event because more students are starting their own businesses but not

enough of them are able to attend because they work or have other responsibilities in their lives. Nevertheless, I do want to keep looking forward to this event again because I would like to have the time to bring enough money to support them and help around me. This is encouraging because, when I was younger and still in church, the youth group at my church did Kermes. We also want to start a small business to sell goods and raise money for a trip to see Noah's Ark in Kentucky. If my classmates can do it, I can certainly start small and accomplish the same goal.

Jamaya Fullilove review

The national small business at East West University was to show different kinds of businesses that students created to perfect their own craft and show their brand off to people to buy from them. The event was on the first floor of the west building near the bookstore. Everybody had a variety of products on each table that represent their interest outside of school. The small business day had eight tables where different females show the students their brand and what they make or sell so people could buy from them and support what they got going on. One of the presenters was selling food at one of the tables and I loved that because she made sure people had something to eat and always had food

that people really enjoyed eating. All of the presenters interacted with students, describing the quality of their products, and the security guards also came and supported their businesses and were buying things from each table. One of the tables was selling necklaces with various items that had different meanings. Additionally, it featured classy and adorable bracelets and rings on both men's and women's wear. Another table had several types of perfume on another table, and she sprayed it there so we could smell it. One table I really liked was the fundraiser one because they were raising money for pride to invest in decorations, games, banners, and other fantasy making items. They also support pride and want to take them money in put it into something positive and supportive for pride who struggle most in society to be accepted and I feel like this is a chance to let know that it's kind people out here who that loves them for who they are and make them feel comfortable at the event that's being held friday for them. Khaliyah was one of the presenters I interviewed, and her business is Kay's scrub, where she sells lashes, nails, lip gloss, and plans to start selling scrubs later. The hardest part about starting her business was gathering everything, which was essentially the process of launching her

scrub business. She started her business Kay's Scrub because she loves everything about the beauty industry and doesn't see the point in investing in other people's business when you can succeed on your own and don't have to worry about others. She came up with Kay's Scrub because her name is Khaliyah and kay is a shorter version of her name and she called herself "queen key" because of her business, also getting her bachelor in science and going into the medical field. She creates her own sets of nails, lip gloss, and lashes. She is launching a wig company, but before she starts on it, she wants to see how the industry is and test out some of their quality before selling it and doing hair. She enjoys wearing wigs, and would love to start making other girls feel good about themselves by doing wigs. The second presenter I interviewed was Kyla Flowers, her business name is Kyla spaceship. She had self-doubt, asking herself what would happen if her business failed, but she decided to take a chance and launch a hat company. In addition to being an inspiration, her grandmother knitted items that she picked up from her grandmother. She is currently working on dresses and much more. Hanan was the visitor I interviewed to support the female ambassador at the pop up shop. He came to sup-

port because he wanted to come to the popup shop to see what they have and to support the brands of each one of them. I interviewed security guard Ms. Willis and she wanted to come and support and buy their brand and put it on social media so they're platform can out there. What I liked about the business day was they gave women a platform to showcase their craft and make presentations to audiences. Each woman gives a brief explanation of how and why they started their business and what motivated them to start and I liked their responses. Joderat Carrena, one of the presenters that was there, I liked what she was doing for students and her response about why she wanted to mentor the students. "Meet a mentor launching a mentorship program and help freshmen help students who struggle outside of school either studies and more." I liked that they have a program for students who need help with homework or school work and having a mentor is very important. I also like how some of them had business cards for us to buy from them on social media or at school.

Jayrajsinh Champavat Review

On Thursday, May 9th, East-West University (EWU) students gathered at 829 South Wabash to celebrate National Small Businesses Day. From 2 PM to 4 PM, the venue buzzed

to 4 PM, the venue buzzed with excitement as students showcased their businesses. When I walked into a room filled with creativity and ambition. That's exactly what it felt like at this event. Each booth was like a mini-store, displaying everything from handmade clothes and selling good perfumes and many more businesses. It was amazing to see so many different ideas all in one place. What made it even better was the atmosphere. Everyone was so friendly and eager to share their stories. I could feel the passion and hard work behind each business. It wasn't just about selling stuff; it was about supporting each other. In this review, I'll talk about how the event was organized, the kinds of businesses that were there, and the overall vibe. I'll also share what I think could make future events even better.

Kayla, the fashion designer I met at the event, had a fascinating story behind her business. She shared with me that her inspiration and motivation came from her grandmother. It was her grandmother who first taught her the art of sewing and crafting. From a young age, Kayla was drawn to the world of fashion, watching her grandmother create beautiful pieces with skill and love. What struck me the most about Kayla's story was her deep connection to her family and her roots.

She not only inherited her grandmother's talent but also her entrepreneurial spirit. Kayla's business was more than just a way to make money; it was a tribute to her family and a testament to the values they instilled in her. Talking to Kayla and hearing her story was really inspiring. It made me think about how important it is to respect where we come from and to follow the things we love doing. Kayla's journey from learning to sew with her grandma to becoming a successful fashion designer showed me how determination and family help us achieve our dreams.

At the event, I met Malissa Lewis. She does two important things: she helps raise money for events and also for people who need it. What's cool is that she doesn't just do fundraising—she also sells yummy treats like strawberry chocolate and cookies on the side. Malissa really cares about helping her community. She works super hard to get support for events that help charities or people going through tough times. Her dedication to fundraising is really impressive. What's really cool about Malissa is that she's not just about fundraising. She's also a bit of an entrepreneur! Besides raising money, she runs a small business selling tasty treats like strawberry chocolate and cookies. It's awesome to see how she mixes helping

others with her business skills. Meeting Malissa was like a big hug of kindness. She's always ready to help others, and it's really inspiring. Plus, her treats were amazing! It was awesome to meet someone who cares so much about making the world a better place, both with her fundraising and her tasty snacks.

My last stop at the event was another Kayla's booth. She was selling fragrances, and let me tell you, it was a treat for the senses! Her table was beautifully decorated with a big sign that said "KOI," and the fragrances she had on display were simply amazing. What impressed me most about Kayla's booth was not just the quality of her products, but also the attention to detail in the presentation. From the elegant table setup to the enticing fragrance samples, everything was perfect. Going to Kayla's stall was like the cherry on top of my day at the event. Her fragrances were so good! I felt so relaxed and happy after smelling them. You could tell she really loves what she does, and it made me admire her even more. It was awesome to end the event on such a positive way.

In conclusion, The celebration at East-West University for National Small Businesses Day showed how enthusiastic students are about starting their own businesses. There were lots of different kinds of busi-

nesses on display, like cool clothes, yummy snacks, and lovely fragrances. Each booth showed how much effort and passion the students put into their businesses. People were friendly and supportive, sharing their stories and helping each other out. For example, Kayla's fashion designs were inspired by her grandma, and Malissa not only raised money for good causes but also sold delicious treats. The event reminded everyone about the importance of community, working hard, and staying true to where you come from. It left everyone feeling excited and motivated, showing how events like these help young entrepreneurs grow and succeed.

Kwing Ning Review

This event is a collection of small businesses owned by east-west students. It was held at 2 PM on Thursday on the first floor of the SLC building outside the bookstore. I believe there were a total of around 9 stalls or less. This event provides good networking opportunities and publicity for the business to gather more experience with customers and their product. The event introduces student's business at stalls circled around a gathering area for visitors. The tables that were there had food, beauty products, keychains and juices.

There was one table fundraising a future event at East-West by selling cook-

ies and chocolate covered strawberries. The owner of this business was a freshman student at East-West, Berenice Correa Cazadero. She baked these cookies herself as well as made the chocolate covered strawberries. She used to sell more baked goods in the past however she had to stop due to some family issues but hopes to continue in the future. Her partner at the table was Melissa Lewis who is a senior student at East-West. She is building a business called MBL, which stands for Make a Better life, its a training academy to help people create a better life for themselves. A visitor at this event was James Jones, he is the bookstore clerk. Being right next to the event it was only reasonable he saw what it was about. He sees this event as a good chance for the students to network, they never know who can help them with what problem with their business. He grabbed some chips and cheese from the event. He chose this instead of the other foods at the event because it gives him nostalgia as he ate this in his childhood. He did note that the jewelry and other stuff is cool too though. He also would like to open a business, something convenient, like a 7/11. He would like a convenient store if somebody ever needs a magazine, some food or something. He believes that it's the right thing to do,

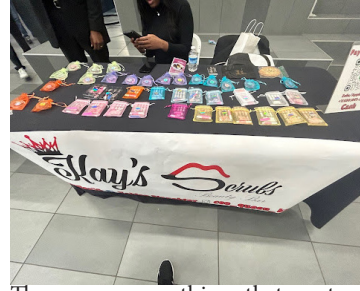


there needs to be stores that open where certain neighborhoods don't have those businesses, you should use your capital to give back to the community. That's why he wants to have a convenience store. Another attendee at the event was Hanan Mohammed Khan. He decided to come see what the event was offering as it caught his eye on the way into the building. He says the jewelry stall is cool, the keychains are pretty enough that he might buy one, its a good stall overall. It's also great that they have snacks here at the event as if you're attending you would probably want a bite instead of getting something at the vending machine. Having food there is good too because people are always going to be hungry, but not everyone is going to need to buy an item.

Some good things about the event was that they had tables to display the products as well as signs with more information like payment options and social media. All the stalls were positioned far enough away from each other to allow space for at least 5 people per stall at a time with room to come in and out. Traffic was not an issue for the event with all the stalls along the walls of the building and an open center area for all the attendees to move from stall to stall. There were a decent amount of people at the event to provide enough liveliness and chatter. There were snack stalls to provide a quick bite to attendees which always adds a good mood for the event. The event was also positioned close enough to a higher traffic area like the stairs high to the SLC building and the wabash



entrance so that students coming into the building could see the event which can attract more people. Even though it was closer to a higher traffic area it also was somewhere that was not in the way for people going through. It was in front of the bookstore and vending machines, which is usually empty space. There also was seating right outside the event area which serves as another place for people to rest in between the event or just to chat. Lastly there were enough stalls for everyone to be at, at once. There weren't too many stalls where there would not be enough attendees to make the event lively. There also weren't too many people where there weren't enough stalls and it was crowded. Some things I believed that were needed for the event was possibly an introduction to all the stalls at the start of the event. It smoothes out the transition from arriving at the event to going to a business that interests you. With an announcement at the start of the event for all the stalls and what they are here for it allows for the business owner an easier time to advertise their product. Although I did previously say there was an adequate amount of business to attendees ratio, I do wish that there were more different business stalls at the event. The event did not have many different businesses. Also having more East-West staff there would've added to the liveliness of the event as well. The event was a good time for students to introduce themselves to each other along with their businesses. It was a good chance to network and advertise their product and gain some experience.



There were many things that went well but there could have been a couple improvements.

Natalie Morales Review

The month of May is National Small Business Month and May 10, 2024 is National Small Business Day.

To celebrate the small businesses, East-West University had their entrepreneur students showcase their businesses in a Pop-up shop on May 9, 2024. This gave the small businesses an opportunity to expand their clientele and an opportunity for visitors to support small businesses. The first business I visited was Kay's Scrubs owned by Kahlea. She is a biology major student and is in her last year of University expected to graduate in June 2024. Her business includes things from the beauty industry such as false lashes, press-on nails, and lip-gloss. I asked her, "What was the most challenging part of starting your own business?" "The hardest part was getting everything together and not overthinking everything too much," Kahlea responded. Kahlea plans on adding



wigs but plans on testing them for herself first before launching them in her business. She also plans on adding scrubs since she is in the science field and plans on getting into healthcare. The second business I visited was Kyla's Spaceship owned by Kyla. Her business is selling everything she makes with crochet. Crochet is needlework done with a hooked needle by interlocking looped stitches with yarn. "What was the hardest part about starting your business?" I asked. "What if I'm not good at it and I just took a leap of faith and went for it," Kyla responded. Kyla got into crocheting from her grandma and plans on adding clushies or stuffed animals to her business. The third business I visited was Las Divinas owned by Jessie. Her business was about jewelry. For Jessies the hardest part of starting her business was the fear that people wouldn't take seriously at first

since she was only 17 when she launched her business. She has a beautiful display of the jewelry she sells such as rings, necklaces, and more. The first visitor I interviewed was Yesenia who came down to see the shop to support her fellow classmates. The second visitor was Alyssa who came to the Pop-up shops since the small businesses at our school don't often get opportunities to showcase their business. The last visitor I interviewed was Hanan who came to the Pop-up shop to see what our students had to offer and found it to be very interesting, especially the Las Divinas business which really caught his eye. Overall, I found the businesses of the students here at East-West University very interesting and beautiful. The students all took it upon themselves to start a business and become an entrepreneur. I think some of the things the business owners can improve on is display displaying their items on others. Something I like was that Kahlea, the business owner of Kay's Scrubs, was first testing out her wigs before launching them in her business. I think this shows how important her customers' satisfaction are to her. I found each business to be interesting and unique.

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