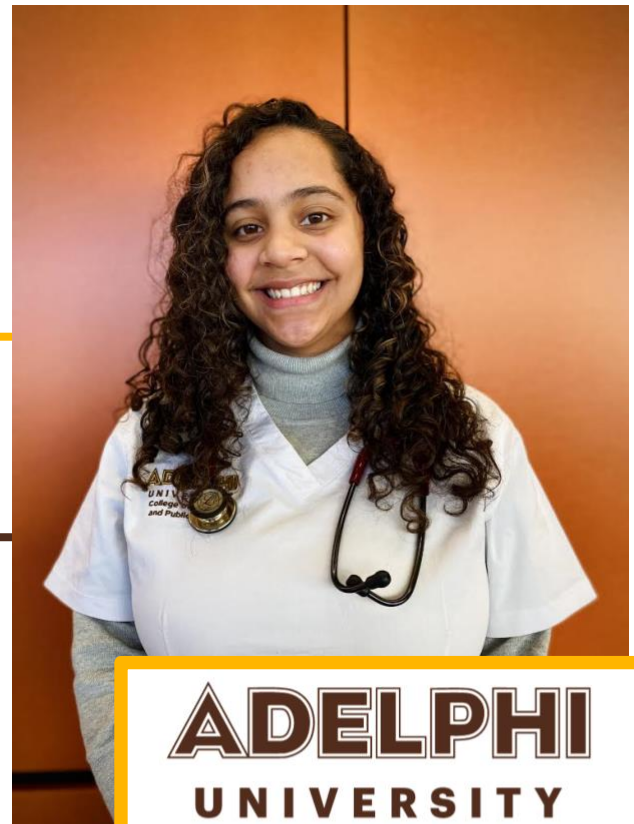


# Getting to Know Your CNPH Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Council Members

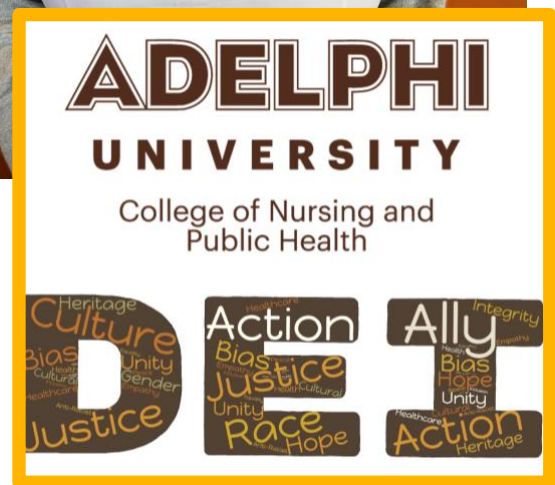
**Jennifer Laguan,**

**Senior Undergraduate Nursing Student**



## **A First-Generation Latinx College Student's DEI Experience at AU**

My name is Jennifer Laguan and I am a senior nursing student here at Adelphi University. Diversity, equity, and inclusion is particularly important to me but I didn't think that a huge focus on these issues would exist at Adelphi, so let me explain. When I applied, I really wasn't sure how much diversity I would encounter in a private school located in Garden City. I was accustomed to having professors from different ethnic backgrounds, and having fellow classmates of mixed ethnicities while at Suffolk Community College in Brentwood. I wasn't sure if a private school would uphold those standards. But to my pleasant surprise there was much diversity within the school. All my classes had a mix of students and professors from all different ethnic backgrounds, and it made me feel comfortable and welcomed.



What made it even better is that the CNPH DEI Council is available to really accentuate the diversity that is present at Adelphi. It makes going here extra special because the staff along with student's are making it a point to make sure that everyone feels welcomed and included. I am a first generation college student bringing great pride to my family. My father is Salvadorian and my mother is Dominican, and it is important for me to make sure I don't forget my roots and where my family comes from. I'm sure I am not the only one who is a first generation student, or who has family that came here to the United States for a better life. So being part of this committee is important because we can all come together, learn from each other, and grow.

## **Life Lessons Along the Way and How it Has Made me More Resilient**

When I got accepted into Adelphi I was excited, but also filled with self-doubt. I come from a family who isn't wealthy but we are living comfortably to meet our needs. I wasn't sure how I was going to manage the expenses that came with going to a private school. But, I got a job at Northwell Health as an Environmental Service Aide - that's the fancy words for Housekeeper. I have no shame in what I do, and it has allowed me to gain exposure in the hospital. One thing that struck me as odd, was peoples' reactions at work when I told them I was going to Adelphi. Their nonverbal response was one of shock, then followed by "excitement." Their next response was saying "that's an expensive school, but that's a great school for nursing." I wondered why this was their response. Why would they make a face of shock and disbelief when I first told them that's the school I attended, and why did they have to say it was an expensive one? I'm sure they weren't expecting a Hispanic girl who works in housekeeping to be going to a private school. It made me realize that I had fallen victim to *microaggression* and that I am breaking the "social norms" most people have of Hispanics/Latinos/Latinx. It makes me proud that I am working hard academically and physically, in order to attain my dream of becoming a nurse and no one can ever take this pride away from me.