

## Annual Narrative Report

August 1, 2023 – July 31, 2024

### Grant's overview

The Worldwide Education Fund of the Dallas Foundation provides the American University of Central Asia (AUCA) with grant funds for financial support to twelve promising and talented Tajik students who would not have had the opportunity to access high-quality university education under their current financial conditions. AUCA will ensure the students' inclusive and dynamic educational environment, self-development and capacity-building opportunities, and knowledge necessary for future success.

### Progress to date

Thanks to the generous support of the Donor, eleven students have successfully completed the 2023-24 AY, and one student took an academic leave from the fall of 2023 until the end of the academic year. The students have demonstrated excellent academic performance. The average cumulative GPA is 3.45. The highest results belong to Manizha Niyatbekova and Zaynab Nazirova.

### Students' GPA:

#	Name	ID	Program	Fall 2023 GPA	Spring 2024 GPA	Cumulative GPA
1	Niyatbekova Manizha	12190	ECO	3.9	3.8	3.85
2	Azimshoev Ofarid	12208	ICP	3.9	3.6	3.75
3	Mavlonazarova Rumiya	12210	ICP	3.6	3.5	3.55
4	Orzumamadov Meroj	12252	SFW	Acad. Leave	Acad. Leave	Acad. Leave
5	Rashidbekova Violetta	12603	BA	3.1	2.9	3.02
6	Arabshoev Mashhur	12562	ES	3.2	2.6	2.92
7	Sherbekov Anis	11684	LAS-SE	3.4	3.2	3.34
8	Imatshoeva Safina	12442	ECO	3.2	3.9	3.55
9	Amirshoeva Firuza	12329	PSY	3.0	3.5	3.19
10	Qadamaliev Sino	12325	LAS-SE	2.7	3.7	3.12
11	Nazirova Zaynab	12237	SOC	4.0	3.9	3.93

12	Sherzamonov Dodikhudo	11499	SFW	3.9	3.6	3.69
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**Manizha Niyatbekova** participated in several AUCA clubs during the 2023–2024 academic year. She was a member of the Stop Motion Animation Club, the Flex Volunteering Club, the AIESEC Club, the Dungan Culture Club, the Nature, Art, Yoga Club, and the Fatima Club. Additionally, she attended various workshops, including one focused on time and stress management. Manizha also took part in a trip to the highlands of Ala-Archa. She plans to apply to work as a student tutor in the Writing and Academic Resource Center and to an exchange program in the upcoming academic year. Moreover, she will actively engage in all voluntary and extracurricular activities at AUCA.



*Manizha Niyatbekova, Dungan Culture Club, 2023*

**Ofarid Azimshoev** had a commendable academic performance, achieving a high cumulative GPA of 3.75. He successfully completed the following courses: First-Year Seminar (FYS), Introduction to Political Science, Comparative Politics, Kyrgyz Language, and Mathematics for Life. He particularly enjoyed FYS classes due to his passion for philosophy, which was often the focus of discussions in these sessions.

In terms of extracurricular activities, Ofarid found great enjoyment in participating in Diversity Week and the football tournament. Diversity Week was particularly meaningful to him as it allowed him to showcase his tradition and culture to fellow students. He participated in the Final Concert with the Roof of the World delegation, where he presented the beauty of Pamirian Dance. Additionally, Ofarid participated in

the football tournament held at AUCA. As a member of Team Badakhshan, he played as the goalkeeper, and the team secured second place in the tournament. This experience was particularly rewarding for Ofarid, given his enthusiasm for sports and the competitive spirit of the event.

**Mashhur Arabshoev** excelled academically in his classes, internships, and conference participation. His dedication and commitment were evident in his rigorous coursework and active engagement in various academic pursuits. Regarding extracurricular activities, Mashhur's involvement in the AIESEC club was particularly noteworthy. As a member throughout the academic year, he enhanced his leadership abilities, honed his skills in service and volunteering, and gained valuable experiences through collaborative efforts with his peers. His contributions to the club underscored his commitment to personal growth and community engagement.

**Anis Sherbekov's** academic year was exceptional, marked by his enjoyment for learning from various professors during his freshman year. His instructors' diverse teaching styles and expertise greatly enriched his academic experience. Throughout the year, he participated in numerous activities and workshops to enhance his leadership skills. In September 2023, Anis joined the AIESEC club, which aims to develop leadership qualities and capabilities in young people. He engaged in community service activities organized by the AIESEC club, supporting various local initiatives. His involvement in this club empowered him to take on more responsibilities and effectively lead initiatives. A major highlight of the year was Anis' participation in the Youth Speak Forum, held from November 10th to November 13th in Abu Dhabi in 2023. It is a prestigious event that unites young leaders, changemakers, passionate advocates, and activists from around the world. Anis was honored to represent AUCA



on this global platform, and his team proudly took first place among many other groups from different countries. This achievement underscored his leadership abilities and commitment to making a positive impact.

Moreover, Anis participated in Diversity Week as a Roof of The World delegation member. Anis was thrilled to showcase his culture and traditional items to other nationalities, including dance, games, and clothing. Through interactive displays, performances, and presentations, he educated his peers about his heritage while learning about their rich cultural backgrounds. This experience was incredibly rewarding as it fostered a sense of unity, mutual respect, and appreciation among the diverse student community. Additionally, on April 7th, AUCA organized a mini-football tournament where students actively participated and competed with each other. Anis and his team, “Pamir,” put their hearts into every match. Their hard work and dedication paid off as they secured first place in the tournament.

**Safina Imatshoeva’s** academic achievements during the Spring semester included completing her required courses, such as Macroeconomics and Mathematical Analysis, alongside general courses like FYS 2, English Composition, Kyrgyz Language, and Russian Language. As it was her first year, Safina faced challenges managing her time and staying active in all her courses.



*Safina Imatshoeva, Orientation Week, 2023*



Despite these difficulties, she appreciated the activities conducted with her professors, which significantly enhanced her critical thinking skills and addressed various other challenges she encountered.

In terms of extracurricular achievements, Safina participated in Diversity Week and the Roof of the World delegation. As a member of the AIESEC Club in the Business Administration Department, she was involved in securing sponsors and donors for various departmental projects. Additionally, she attended numerous workshops, conferences, and guest lectures at AUCA, which helped her develop critical thinking, time management, and leadership skills. Safina also volunteered at the FYS Conference, where she was responsible for registering participating students.

**Sino Qadamaliev** has diligently pursued his academic goals during his first year at AUCA. The orientation week provided a valuable introduction to university life, setting the stage for a fulfilling academic journey. He has shown a particular interest in Liberal Arts and Sciences, and his current coursework has provided him with a solid foundation, which he is eager to continue exploring. Beyond academics, Sino has been active in various extracurricular activities, including joining the AUCA football team, where he enjoys training sessions and matches. Sino and his team became the champions of the



*Sino Qadamaliev, AUCA football tournament, 2023*

AUCA football tournament. He also participated in Diversity Week, embracing the opportunity to learn about different cultures. He was also an active member of the Roof of the World delegation, presenting Pamirian national culture and performing a national dance on the event's last day. Additionally, he has attended several seminars and events, learning from professionals and expanding his knowledge.

**Zaynab Nazirova** initially encountered challenges adapting to the new environment and lifestyle during her first year at the AUCA. However, she adjusted to the system. From the outset, she believed that solely focusing on her studies and academic performance for the entire year would not facilitate her personal growth and learning. Therefore, she actively engaged in various clubs, initiatives, conferences, Diversity Week, and projects such as tree planting. Seizing these opportunities provided by the university allowed her to enhance her functionality and develop a range of skills. Participating in diverse initiatives significantly contributed to her personal growth, improving her communication and public speaking skills and fostering her understanding of people from different backgrounds, including their lifestyles, cultures, traditions, and histories. Additionally, being an active student empowered Zaynab to complete all 60 credits successfully. Overall, extracurricular activities enriched her knowledge broadened her horizons and played a pivotal role in enhancing her academic performance.



*Zaynab Nazirova, Tree Planting Event, 2023*



**Dodikhudo Sherzamonov** demonstrated an impressive academic performance during the 2023-2024 academic year, achieving a cumulative GPA of 3.69. In addition, he was active in extracurricular activities that included his participation in Diversity Week, where he was a member of the Roof of the World delegation and performed the Pamirian dance at the final concert on February 2, 2024. He also participated in a chess tournament



*Dodikhudo Sherzamonov, Diversity Week, 2024*

on February 13, 2024, and has been an active member of the AUCA Football Club during the academic year. Additionally, Dodikhudo worked part-time as an interpreter at Intraduk Company from October to December 2023. He actively participated in the FYS/SYS seminar and competed in the AUCA Football Tournament on April 8, 2024.

**Violetta Rashidbekova** regards AUCA as the most wonderful and unforgettable university, and she has no regrets about her decision to enroll. Her first year of study at AUCA has been marked by numerous positive experiences and challenges that have made her stronger and more independent. At the beginning of the academic year, the university organized a festival for various clubs to recruit new participants. Violetta joined many clubs but ultimately focused on two: the "Book Club" and "AIESEC." After a few months in AIESEC, she had the opportunity to attend the Youth Speak Forum conference in Abu Dhabi, which focused on sustainable cities. Each group shared their thoughts and ideas through presentations, and during the customary introduction, they also gave demonstrations at the fair about their university. Violetta actively participated in different events organized by AUCA. One notable event was Diversity Week, where each team wore traditional clothes and performed cultural dances.

She was part of the Roof of the World delegation. Additionally, she has consistently planted trees in the Korogachev grove. These experiences have enriched her university life and contributed significantly to her personal growth and development.



*Violetta Rashidbekova, AIESEC (green leaders program), Turkey, 2024*

**Rumiya Mavlonazarova** actively participated in workshops and various university programs during the 2023-2024 academic year. One of the most memorable events for her was Diversity Week, where she was a member of the Roof of the World delegation. She also attended workshops on time management, Fatima Club, and the ones organized by the library, which provided her with valuable skills applicable in her studies and in everyday life. The university-arranged excursions were particularly beneficial, offering her firsthand knowledge about various companies and potential career opportunities. A notable excursion was to the Red Crescent in Bishkek, where she learned about their humanitarian efforts and contemplated joining their volunteer team. Additionally, participation in the Career Fair Week provided her with information about post-graduation opportunities, broadening her perspective on potential career paths.

Rumiya faced challenges during the 2023-24 academic year, despite her dedication, due to family issues that temporarily diverted her focus from her studies. However, as the situation improved, she regained her focus and is now optimistic about the upcoming academic year. She anticipates new opportunities that will contribute to her growth both as a student and as an individual with ambitions. She expresses her gratitude for providing numerous opportunities for students to explore, connect, and pave a fulfilling path forward.