

SAVE THE DATE October 19, 2023

Momentum

2023 Seattle Colleges Foundation Gala

**EQUITY
CAN'T WAIT.**
SEATTLE COLLEGES
FOUNDATION

▶ JOIN US AS A TABLE HOST!

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2023 | IN-PERSON AT **FREMONT STUDIOS**
5:00 (CHECK-IN & RECEPTION) | **6:00 PM** (DINNER & PROGRAM)

Our city is only as strong as its base of skilled workers: The carpenters, electricians, welders and ironworkers who build our homes and infrastructure... The child-care professionals and teachers who expertly look after and educate our kids... The nurses and respiratory therapists who care for us when we're sick... The chefs who keep restaurants and groceries stocked with delicious food... The ferry workers who move us safely across the water for work or play.

Yet in these and many other critical fields, the shortage of people with needed know-how grows larger every day. Partly it's a growing wave of baby-boomer retirements, accelerated by the pandemic. Partly it's that younger people — wary of student debt and lured by historically good pay in entry-level jobs — are deciding to skip or delay the post-secondary education that could prepare them for higher-skilled, more meaningful work with significantly higher income.

The Seattle Colleges — North, Central and South — are working to turn this around. Our formula includes innovative and flexible new programs (ranging from certificates that take a few weeks to a growing array of 4-year baccalaureates), affordable tuition, scholarships, emergency-needs grants, new advising and mentoring programs, committed instructors, and a culture that welcomes and supports the success of everyone, of every background. In our proud role as the city's community colleges, North, Central and South are the destination for tens of thousands of Seattleites who might otherwise be excluded from the economic and social mobility higher-ed makes possible. We are committed to being the best open access colleges anywhere, welcoming everyone regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, age, citizenship, sexuality, religious belief, past academic performance, or history of incarceration.

With the Equity Can't Wait campaign, the Seattle Colleges Foundation is ensuring that all these remarkably varied students have every chance to thrive. This means mobilizing added resources for scholarships and student services, for added innovation in programs and curricula, and for excellence in instruction and facilities. Our \$50 million campaign launched in Spring 2021 and is already more than three-quarters to goal.

[Purchase a table](#) at our October 19 Gala and **help us accelerate this Momentum.**

AS A TABLE HOST HERE'S HOW YOU WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE CAMPAIGN'S SUCCESS:

- 1. Purchase a table** at the \$2,500 level. Recruit big-hearted, community-minded people to join you. To sign up to be a Table Host email us at scfevents@seattlecolleges.edu or [sign up here](#). [Proceeds from purchased tables offset our modest event expenses, then flow into the work of the *Equity Can't Wait | Momentum* campaign.]
- 2. Recruit your guests.** *We ask that each table captain to recruit ten guests.* Consider guests who are interested in learning about the Colleges and our central role in racial and social justice.
- 3. Engage your guests before, during and after the event.** We'll provide you with everything you need to reach out in advance, welcome your guest's night-of, and follow up once the event concludes.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

Will my invitees get reminders? Yes, we'll send them reminders as we approach the event - the week-before, day-before, and day-of reminders. You can help by sending your own reminders the week prior; we'll provide you with text.

Will there be an "ask"? Yes! The campaign is ambitious, and we hope for strong financial momentum coming out of the event. We suggest a \$250 contribution (more if people can afford it). We're striving to have gifts of \$250 and up matched.

How will I get you my guests names and email addresses? There's a place online for your guests to [register](#) and to name you as a table captain. You can also [email us directly](#). Ideally, we'll have all names by *Friday, September 29th*.

What if an invitee says No? Do they sound interested in the work, just can't attend that night? There are lots of other ways to play a role, whether [making a gift online](#), or [volunteering](#) (for example by reviewing scholarship applications or volunteering at our event), or meeting with us to learn more.

What if I can't fill a table of ten? Or what if my group is larger than ten? It's no problem either way, we can fill your remaining seats or provide another table for your guests.

Is there text I can use in inviting people? Yes! There's wording below; of course, feel free to change it to suit your needs.

SAMPLE LANGUAGE:

Dear (guest name),

I hope this message finds you safe and healthy. Like you, I am deeply invested in institutions that help our communities and businesses thrive.

For me, one of the most important of these is Seattle Colleges — Central, North and South. Their work to transform lives, promote equity, and increase access to quality, affordable education gets far too little attention, I think. That's particularly true now, as we strive to rebuild our community along better, more equitable lines.

In support of the thousands of first-generation college students and students of color who make the Seattle Colleges their springboard to degrees, professional credentials, and transfer opportunities, The Seattle Colleges Foundation is raising funds and awareness with their *Equity Can't Wait* campaign. I'm helping assemble a special group of people for the Seattle Colleges Foundation first annual dinner being held October 19th. **Will you join my table?**

WHEN + WHERE: Thursday, October 19, 2023 (in-person at Fremont Studios)

5:00 (Check-In & Reception) | **6:00 pm** (Dinner & Program)

ATTENDING: Leaders like yourself who are committed to a truly inclusive prosperity

TO REGISTER: Email scevents@seattlecolleges.edu or [online](#).

Please indicate that you want to be at my table!

CAN'T COME? Please consider a gift to the campaign, [make a gift today](#).

THANK YOU! If you have any questions about Seattle Colleges, the campaign, or the event, please contact them at scevents@seattlecolleges.edu.