

# 2024 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

SEATTLE COLLEGES  
SCHOOL YEAR 2023-24

**33,837**

enrolled students

**28**

average age

**48%**

first in their family to  
attend college

**3,813**

Class of 2024 grads

**130**

programs of study



SEATTLE COLLEGES  
North • Central • South



# Reflecting on an historic campaign



Steve Hill, Board Chair

Walk the hallways of North, Central or South Seattle Colleges and you'll likely be amazed at the variety of people you meet: Diverse in age. In race. In income. In place of origin. In faith. In first language. In gender. In career goals.

**We are community colleges, and this is our community.** More than that, we are a microcosm of our country — the land of opportunity — and we are determined to bring the fullness of educational opportunity to all we have the privilege to serve.

That is why, in 2020, the then-new Seattle Colleges Foundation announced the five-year, \$50M Equity Can't Wait campaign. Our goal: help every student, of every profile, achieve their version of the American Dream.

**We reached our \$50M goal in early 2025**, but the more exciting news is how the money is being invested so that our students, in all their varied circumstances, can thrive.

For starters, we've **doubled our number of scholarships**, and also made each scholarship bigger. In parallel, we've invested in modernizing and streamlining the Colleges' financial aid processes, removing obstacles to the other supports that can help students pay for school.

We've funded a promising **new mentoring program for men**, including men of color. We've strengthened **pre-apprenticeship programs** in the trades. We've also helped establish a popular new **BS in Computer Science program**.

Are we succeeding in helping more students of more kinds succeed at our schools? Early signs say Yes, and we're excited to now be working with a prominent data-mining consultancy, Storytellers.ai, to tell the full story — including where we can do still better.

**Thank you** for your part in this progress. And thank you also to **Jon Fine** and **Barbara Dingfield**, my immediate predecessors as Board chairs. Their drive and passionate leadership have been remarkable.



Barbara Dingfield  
Board Chair, 2020-23



Jon Fine  
Board Chair, 2023-24

\$50.4M raised



2,824 donors



3,785 gifts

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EQUITY  
CAN'T WAIT.

SEATTLE  
COLLEGES  
FOUNDATION

At North, funded a **new BS in Computer Science program** — just the second in the state at a community college.

North  
Seattle  
College

With help from the Seattle Mariners, supported **maritime education** programs leading to jobs in the ferry system, shipping, commercial fishing and beyond.

Seattle  
Maritime  
Academy

At Central, funded **advisors** for first-year students, new **scholarships** for Creative Academy students, and a **new navigator** for students in the School of Apparel Design & Development.

Seattle  
Central  
College

At the Wood Technology Center, funded **new staff positions** to recruit and support students entering the building trades, including **carpentry**.

Wood  
Technology  
Center

Pac Tower  
Health  
Education  
Center

At the Pac Tower Health Education Center, funded new scholarships for dozens of future **nurses, respiratory therapists, and medical assistants**.

South  
Seattle  
College

At South, funded new scholarships for students in **Aviation Technology, Culinary Arts**, and other programs.

At Georgetown, funded a major ramp-up of **skilled-trades pre-apprenticeship programs**. Plus supported a new program manager position in the **Sustainable Building Science Technology** baccalaureate program.

Georgetown  
Apprenticeship  
Training Campus

NewHolly  
Learning  
Center

Mercer  
Island





◀ A few of the hundreds of 2024 grads who, thanks to campaign donors, received a Seattle Colleges scholarship.

## Stay in the game

 **Scholarship Fund**

In our increasingly costly city, students can still have thousands in unmet financial need even after state and federal grants, income from work, and other scholarships. That can make it hard to pay rent, keep food on the table, and (if you have a kid) afford childcare.

The greater the unmet need, the higher the likelihood a student will pause their education, or even step away entirely. We all lose when that happens. As a community, **we need the talents and skills of everyone** out on the field.

**Stay in the Game scholarships**, created with start-up funding from the **Seattle Mariners**, help students with the financial need still remaining after other aid. With help from Stay in the Game funding, we're now giving **more and larger scholarships**.

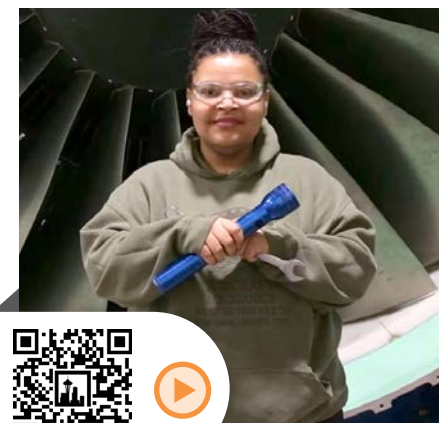
### SUPPORTING STUDENTS

# Seattle Colleges Scholarships

## Making higher ed possible in our expensive city

Every year, thanks to the generosity of hundreds of individuals, families, organizations, and companies, we are able to award scholarships to high-achieving Seattle Colleges students, easing their financial burden. In 2024-25 we distributed a record amount, **\$2.2 million**. Thanks in part to new Stay in the Game funds, the average scholarship also hit a high: **\$4,279**.

**513 students** received a 2024-25 scholarship — **twice the number** awarded when the Equity Can't Wait campaign began.



Scan for a short video about **Nydjah Istatia**, a scholarship recipient and mom to two young boys who has propelled herself through South's aviation technology program...and on to **multiple internships with NASA**.



### 2024-25 NUMBERS

**513**

scholarship recipients

**\$4,279**

average award

**70%**

first-generation college students

**29**

average student age



# More than a scholarship — a partnership

**Seattle Promise is a college tuition and success program** launched by **Seattle Colleges, Seattle Public Schools**, and the **City of Seattle** following passage of the Families, Education, Preschool, and Promise (FEPP) Levy in 2018. Open to all graduating seniors from the city's public and public-charter high schools, Seattle Promise has three core components:

- Student support and advising beginning junior year of high school and lasting through completion of a degree, certificate, credential or transfer to a four-year institution.
- Up to two years of free tuition at any of the Seattle Colleges: North, Seattle Central, or South.
- Flexible funding for books, transportation, housing, etc. for students with financial need.

Thanks to the generosity of area credit unions **BECU** and **WSECU**, the Seattle Colleges have been able to enhance equity grants to Promise students with particularly great financial need.

## 2023–24 NUMBERS

Seattle Promise participants **complete degrees at rates exceeding** their national and Seattle Colleges peers.

Nearly **2/3 of seniors** graduating from Seattle Public Schools applied for the program in 2024.

Program enrollment has increased from 220 students in Fall 2018 to **1,460 students in Fall 2024**.

One-third of students are the **first in their families** to attend college; two-thirds are from communities of color.

Over 50% of Promise students come from **families earning less than \$75K a year**.

Large numbers of Promise participants later **transfer to four-year schools** including the UW, WSU and Seattle University.

## Promise students succeed on the *Path to UW*



Promise alum **Alex Roque** graduated from UW in 2024 with a B.A. in Law, Societies, and Justice. *Read her story.*



*Read the story of 2024 UW grad **Jonathan Bristle**, who fell in love with Biology as a Seattle Promise student.*

Perhaps the greatest, most thrilling achievement of all is what is emerging: not just a model for free community college, but a new model for education.”

— Dr. Rosie Rimando-Chareunsap, Chancellor, Seattle Colleges





## POWERING INNOVATION

# A new mentoring program



Project Baldwin is a mentorship initiative designed to boost completion and transfer outcomes for Seattle Colleges students overall, including men, who now enroll and persist in higher education

at significantly lower rates. Named for celebrated American author and activist James Baldwin, **the program provides students with the social, financial and scholastic support to thrive personally and academically.** The program's pillars are a growth mindset, positive racial identity, and a strong sense of belonging.

The program has seen significant growth, with **103 participants in the 2023-24 academic year**, roughly double the year prior. Participants come from more than three dozen programs across the Colleges. Twenty-three Baldwin participants graduated in 2024, with a number transferring to the UW and other 4-year schools.



## STRENGTHENING CAPACITY

# Financial aid redesign

All across the country, financial aid processes at colleges and universities have become rickety and laborious, straining the resolve of time-pressed students and their families. With help from donors, the Colleges are actively upgrading technology, harmonizing approaches across the three campuses, enhancing training, and significantly expanding student outreach.

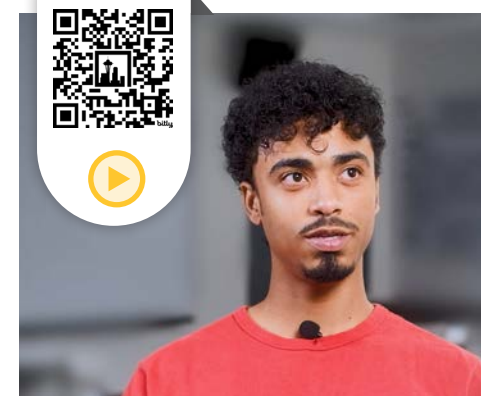
# A new degree offering

## B.S. IN COMPUTER SCIENCE

With nearly 131,000 workers, the tech industry is a powerful engine of the Seattle-area economy. Even amid some recent retrenchment, many job categories continue in hot demand, including machine learning and Artificial Intelligence, cloud computing, and data science.

To meet the need — and include local people in these opportunities, not just talent from elsewhere — in Fall 2022 the Seattle Colleges established a new **Bachelor of Science in Computer Science** degree, only the second in the state at a community college. **Amazon** generously seeded the program with grants totalling \$2.5M.

North Seattle College's BS in Computer Science program lets students with a relevant associate degree earn a high-value bachelor's through two additional years of study. Response has been strong, with **enrollment nearly doubling** from the first Fall 2022 cohort (24 students) to Fall 2024 (46 students). Broadly diverse in backgrounds, they will be part of a new generation of industry contributors that brings both technical expertise *and* sensitivity to the cultural and ethical issues surrounding today's technologies.



**CALLAN HERCULES**, a Project Baldwin participant and recipient of a Seattle Colleges scholarship, will graduate in Spring 2025 with his **B.S. in Computer Science**. *Scan the QR code to meet him in a short video.*

**Fun fact:** Callan, age 23, is one of only a few thousand people worldwide with the status of "Extended Confirmed Editor" on Wikipedia. That means he's trusted to edit the most controversial and sensitive of pages, a privilege gained by being accurate and precise over the course of hundreds of edits on behalf of the Wikipedia community.

In fall 2024, a dazzling mural depicting James Baldwin was unveiled in the newly-remodeled library at North Seattle College. *Scan the QR code to learn more in a short video.*



THE PARADOX OF EDUCATION IS PRECISELY THIS – THAT AS ONE BEGINS TO BECOME CONSCIOUS ONE BEGINS TO EXAMINE THE SOCIETY IN WHICH HE IS BEING EDUCATED



## Recent job and internship placements for B.S. in Computer Science students

**FloQast** • Software Engineer

**Graphium Health** • Software Engineering Intern

**Microsoft** • Mobile Development Intern

**PlanetBio** • Full Stack Engineer

**7 Simple Machines** • Software Engineer

**SureStart** • AI Research Intern

**Patrick J. McGovern Foundation** • Data Science Associate

**US Bureau of Reclamation** • Cybersecurity Specialist

**US Coast Guard** • Cybersecurity & Contingency Liaison

**WA State Department of Health** • Software Development Intern

**Zonar Systems** • Software Development Engineer Intern

Excitingly, a growing number of students in the program are starting their educational journey in **Seattle Promise**.





# Skilled Trades Programs

Where are many of tomorrow's best jobs? The skilled trades.

Seattle will need at least 112,000 more homes by 2040, planners say. In addition, regional plans are in motion to further expand light rail, revitalize a long stretch of I-5 through downtown, and fortify or remake infrastructure being affected by climate change, including stormwater systems and the electrical grid. All of this will take people trained in skilled trades, including **carpenters, welders, electricians, and ironworkers**.

But a “silver tsunami” of retirements is fast depleting the ranks of skilled tradesworkers. Fortunately, a growing number of young adults is attracted to the work because of the increasingly good pay, no or low student debt, comparative insulation from Artificial Intelligence, and the sense of tangible accomplishment each day.

Thanks to a surge of support from corporations, charitable foundations, and individuals, we're now helping many more students discover and develop their trades-oriented talents through pre-apprenticeship, associate degree, and registered apprenticeship programs.



**AUSTIE COLOMBE**, 2024-25 Seattle Colleges scholarship recipient, talks in a short video about his journey from a childhood on the Rosebud Indian Reservation to Seattle Central's Wood Technology Center. *Scan the QR code to watch.*



## Pre-apprenticeships — a powerful springboard

Pre-apprenticeship programs help people explore what the skilled trades involve and gain the mindset and skills to compete for full-on apprenticeships as carpenters, cement masons, electricians, and more. While full apprenticeships pay, letting participants earn while they learn, pre-apprenticeships do not, even though they're demanding and require full-time attendance for ten to twelve weeks — posing, for many, a significant financial barrier.

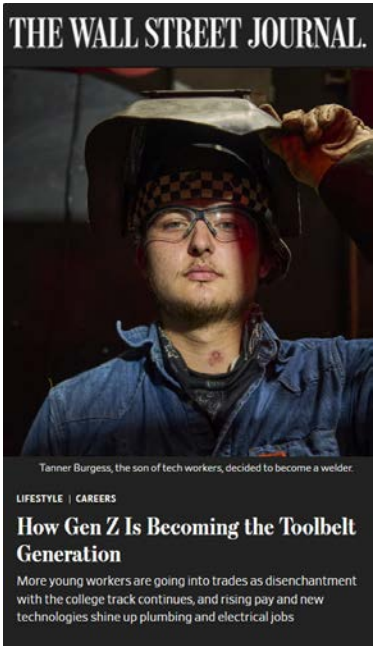
Thanks to the **Schultz Family Foundation** and **McKinstry**, we've been able to **ramp up pre-apprentice outreach** for our Georgetown campus and also support students with small cash grants, ORCA transportation cards, access to a food pantry, and free tools and work gear, such as high-cost steel-toe boots.

Meanwhile, at the Wood Technology Center, a satellite campus of Seattle Central, support from the **Lowe's Foundation** has allowed us to expand outreach for the **Pre-Apprenticeship in Construction Training (PACT)** program as well as other carpentry and fine carpentry programs. The outreach is paying off not only in record enrollment and waiting lists, but in a new level of diversity that more fully reflects the community.



Prior to this program I was in a career that I hated. I knew I wanted to do something in the trades but didn't know where to begin. This helped me find what I like to do and also taught me how to navigate getting hired as an apprentice. I'm happy to say that I just got an offer with Seattle Public Utilities!"

— **VALERIE**, recent grad from the ANEW pre-apprenticeship program at Georgetown







### Did you know?

Nationally, roughly a penny of every dollar donated to higher ed comes to community colleges — schools that serve over 40% of U.S. undergrads. Equity Can't Wait has helped change that equation.

## Our Supporters

The **Equity Can't Wait** campaign reached its historic **\$50M goal** thanks to thousands of supporters throughout the region who see the immense potential of our students and their importance to the community. The gifts — large and small, and from individuals, charitable foundations, organizations, and companies — will help ensure we collectively have the talent to innovate, build, and care for each other — inclusively. To all who gave, **thank you.**



### DONOR PROFILE

## Original Art Foundation

### Can art change the world?



**Colin Plank** (left) is definitely in the Yes camp. Motivated by an Oscar-winning short documentary, “The Last Repair Shop,” Colin set out to learn about, and ultimately invest in, skilled trades programs at Seattle

Central and South Seattle Colleges.

The 2023 film, directed by Ben Proudfoot and Kris Bowers, highlights the Los Angeles Unified School District’s musical instrument repair workshop, one of the last of its kind in the United States. The documentary profiles four dedicated technicians as they meticulously restore instruments while reflecting on their own lives and struggles. The film also features students whose lives have been transformed by music, culminating in a moving performance by alumni who benefited from the program.

“It’s just super cool and inspiring,” says Colin. “When I saw it, I thought to myself, ‘That’s the kind of documentary I’d like to make. It’s so impactful and interesting.’” (Plank himself is a filmmaker, including producing a 2012 drama, “Eden,” that won multiple awards at South by Southwest, including the Audience Award for Best Narrative Feature).

“The Last Repair Shop” got me thinking about **how we’ve devalued those who work with their hands,**

and told young people that the only way to get ahead and have some standing is to go the traditional college route,” Colin remarks. “But **what happens if we don’t have people who are great with their hands, who can make things and fix stuff?** People who can build a house. Or a good stone wall. Or do plumbing. Or get the right power to a server farm. I just admire any kind of craftspeople, and so grew interested in how the Seattle Colleges helps people get into the trades.”

“At the Original Art Foundation, we’re glad to help this diverse group of folks secure a better future for themselves,” Colin reflects. “And build a better world for everyone.”



YouthCare’s YouthBuild program, one of the pre-apprenticeship programs at South Seattle College’s Georgetown campus that’s supported by the Original Art Foundation. Photo by Susan Fried for the South Seattle Emerald.

SCAN TO READ THIS PROFILE IN FULL



Thank you to the top corporate supporters of the Equity Can't Wait campaign:



A generous grant from Amazon has fueled start-up of a popular new BS in Computer Science program at North Seattle College. This year the program added a new Data Science track.



Support from the Lowe's Gable Grants initiative is helping ramp up carpentry and construction programs at Seattle Central's Wood Technology Center.





## DONOR PROFILE

### Shiao-Yen Wu

**Q&A with the prominent real estate investor, who recently announced a legacy gift to the Seattle Colleges.**

*Shiao-Yen, what led you to make this gift?*

I believe that the key to success in life is to get educated and work hard. I really see that as what the Seattle Colleges help people do.

Over the years I've been a leader in various business and civic organizations here in Seattle — the Greater Seattle Chinese Chamber of Commerce, the Taiwanese Chamber of Commerce of Seattle, the International Leadership Foundation, where I've been president.

I also was part of the Rotary Club of North Seattle, which would meet at North Seattle College. I got to know the college president at the time, Peter Ku, who introduced me to various programs and their students.

**I admire our Seattle Colleges students so much. They work hard for everything they have in life, just like I've had to.** I got involved in the North Seattle College Education Fund, and the later Seattle Colleges Foundation, to raise money for more scholarships and strong programs.

Now I'm happy to be leaving part of what I've built as a businesswoman to do even more — not in order to give people a fish, but to provide that fishing pole, those skills, that can let people eat their whole life.

For the most part, money doesn't come easy for anybody. Mine didn't come easy for me. I want to put it to the best use. I like the idea of what community college can do for the community. And that's why I am making this gift."

Seattle Colleges supporter Shiao-Yen Wu in her Lake Washington home. A devoted advocate for animals, she is also a generous donor to Seattle Humane.

SCAN TO READ THE FASCINATING FULL INTERVIEW



Seattle Maritime Academy, a satellite campus of Seattle Central College, educates a growing share of workers for the Washington state ferry system. The academy is located in Ballard.



# Campaign and Colleges Leadership

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Volunteer



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Special Advisor, Seattle Mariners

**Shiao-Yen Wu**  
Founder and CEO, WPI Real Estate

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Seattle Colleges & CEO, Seattle  
Colleges Foundation

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Interim President,  
Seattle Central College

**Dr. Rosie Rimando-Chareunsap**  
Chancellor, Seattle Colleges

**Dr. Rachel Solemsaas**  
President, North Seattle College



Ultimately, any successful campaign comes down to strong relationships — people who believe in what you're about and are willing to share their time and resources. We couldn't have reached our \$50M milestone without an extraordinary set of relationships, starting with the distinguished group of people who agreed to lend their voices and influence as members of our Advisory Council, including Honorary Chair **Jim Sinegal** and Campaign Co-Chair **Constance Rice**. On behalf of the Foundation and the thousands of students you've helped, thank you!

— Jon Fine

## Campaign Advisory Council

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**Jim Sinegal**  
Co-Founder and former CEO, Costco

**CO-CHAIR**  
**Jon Fine**  
Past Chair, Seattle Colleges  
Foundation; Former President and  
CEO, United Way of King County

**CO-CHAIR**  
**Constance Rice**  
President, Very Strategic Group

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Board Member, Seattle Colleges  
Foundation; Past President, Greater  
Seattle Business Association (GSBA)

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Immediate Past Board Chair,  
Seattle Colleges Foundation;  
Community Volunteer

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Senior Portfolio Manager, College &  
Career Success, Ballmer Group

**Jila Javdani**  
General Manager, Slalom Consulting

**Mark Jonson**  
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**Gary Kaplan, M.D.**  
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**Lauren McGowan**  
Board Member, Seattle Colleges  
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**Fred Rivera**  
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**Alice Shobe**  
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Amazon Community Impact

**Gary Swindler**  
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Employees Credit Union (WSECU)

**Jill Wakefield, Ed.D.**  
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**Howard Wright**  
CEO, Seattle Hospitality Group

**Alex Yang**  
Seattle Market Executive,  
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Past President and CEO, Greater  
Seattle Business Association (GSBA)

**Colleen Echohawk**  
Former CEO, Eighth Generation

## Seattle Colleges Chancellor and Presidents



**Dr. Rosie  
Rimando-  
Chareunsap**  
Chancellor,  
Seattle Colleges



**Dr. Chantae  
Recasner**  
Interim  
President, Seattle  
Central College



**Dr. Rachel  
Solemsaas**  
President, North  
Seattle College



**Dr. Monica  
Brown**  
President,  
South Seattle  
College



There's not a day that passes when a member of the Advancement Team doesn't seek the counsel of one of the Foundation's Board or Advisory Council members. The level of investment they bring with their knowledge, resources and relationships is remarkable.

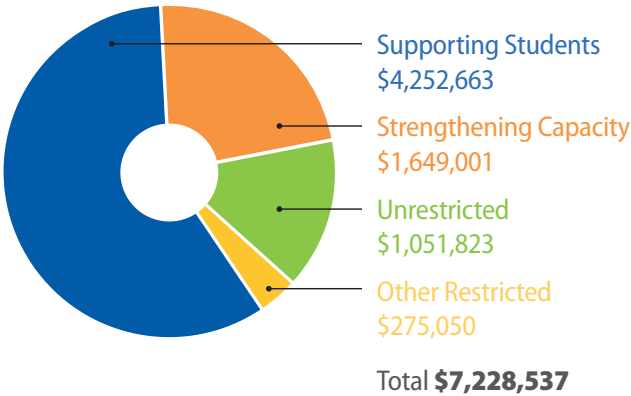
— Kerry Howell



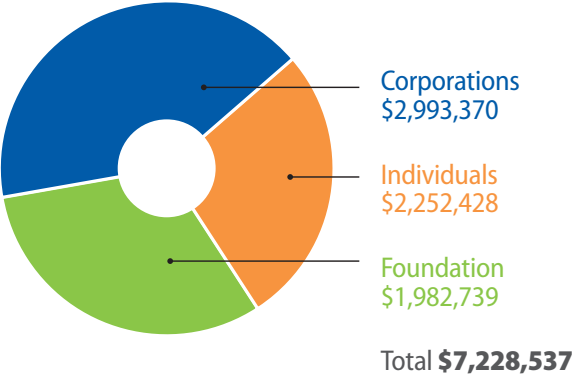
# 2023–2024 Financials

July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024

## Purpose of Funding



## Sources of Funding



| Assets                    | JUNE 30, 2024 | JUNE 30, 2023 |
|---------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Cash and cash equivalents | 11,024,108    | 8,770,746     |
| Investments               | 34,939,858    | 31,463,473    |
| Pledge receivable         | 3,928,224     | 5,947,107     |
| Prepaid expenses          | 64,910        | 14,423        |
| Total Assets              | \$49,957,100  | \$46,195,749  |

| Liabilities         | JUNE 30, 2024 | JUNE 30, 2023 |
|---------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Accounts Payable    | 567,854       | 594,428       |
| Scholarship Payable | 1,982,120     | 1,422,637     |
| Total Liabilities   | \$2,549,974   | \$2,017,065   |

| Net Assets                 | JUNE 30, 2024 | JUNE 30, 2023 |
|----------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Without donor restrictions | 7,729,503     | 5,862,404     |
| With donor restrictions    | 39,677,623    | 38,316,280    |
| Total Net Assets           | \$47,407,126  | \$44,178,684  |

|                                  |              |              |
|----------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Total Liabilities and Net Assets | \$49,957,100 | \$46,195,749 |
|----------------------------------|--------------|--------------|



## Campaign Donor Honor Roll through January, 2025

Fifty million dollars was an unprecedented goal for the Seattle Colleges — and for virtually any community colleges in the United States. These generous donors made it possible, and we couldn't be more grateful.

### \$2.5 Million+

Amazon  
Anonymous (1)

### \$1 Million +

Ballmer Group  
Terry Barksdale  
BECU  
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation  
City of Seattle OED  
Costco Wholesale  
Craig Eaton  
Estate of Eva C. Gordon  
Foundation for the Seattle Colleges  
Anonymous (3)

### \$500,000 +

Bainum Family Foundation  
Jon Fine and Paula Selis  
Heartsprung Fund WA  
JPMorgan Chase & Co.  
Lowe's Foundation  
Mike and Diane O'Neill  
Seattle Colleges  
Seattle Mariners  
Shiao-Yen Wu  
Anonymous (4)

### \$250,000 +

Altom + Carlson Foundation  
Dick and Randi Baldwin  
Carl and Renee Behnke  
Berman Family Foundation  
Bobbe and Jon Bridge  
Cleo Corcoran  
Mark and Christina Dawson  
The Donald Family Foundation  
Foundry10  
Jerry and Linda Hermanson  
Brian McAndrews and  
Elise Holschuh  
Richard and Francine Loeb  
Family Foundation  
Neukom Family Foundation  
Edward and Marjorie Ringness  
Schultz Family Foundation  
The Tudor Foundation  
Washington State  
Employees Credit Union  
Anonymous (4)

### \$100,000 +

American Financial Solutions  
Robert W. Baird & Co. Incorporated  
Bank of America  
The Boeing Company  
Brettler Family Foundation  
Linda Shultz and Lawrence Chazen  
David and Anita Choate  
Barbara Dingfield  
Nolen and Carole Ellison

Matt Griffin and Evelyne Rozner  
Mike and Becky Hughes  
Lu Jiang  
Marilyn Smith Layton  
Liberty Mutual Foundation /  
Safeco Insurance Fund  
McKinstry  
Sarah and Kirk Meeker  
Microsoft Corporation  
NePage Foundation  
Original Art Foundation  
Diane Pien and Merle Weiss  
Marination LLC  
Mary Pugh and Michael Scoggins  
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# *Thank you.*



The Seattle Colleges welcome all, because a just and prosperous future in our city depends on developing the full talents of everyone, from every background. The Seattle Colleges Foundation supports the mission of the colleges by mobilizing philanthropic support for innovative programs, high-quality instruction, and tailored student services.

