

REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

2025



North

Central

South

SEATTLE
MARITIME
ACADEMY

WOOD TECHNOLOGY CENTER

PAC TOWER HEALTH
EDUCATION CENTER

GEORGETOWN
APPRENTICESHIP
TRAINING CENTER

NEW HOLLY
LEARNING
CENTER

GREEN LAKE

LAKE
UNION

LAKE WASHINGTON

ELLIOTT BAY

MERCER ISLAND

I-5

99

520

405

I-90



THESE ARE UNSETTLED times. Change is accelerating across the economy, society, and politics, and the future feels hard to make out. What remains clear is the power of education. It expands opportunity, strengthens communities, and gives people the tools to adapt—not just once, but over a lifetime.

This has perhaps never mattered more. Artificial intelligence is now transforming work across virtually every sector, eliminating

some roles and reshaping others. Those best positioned to navigate this new landscape won't necessarily be those with the most degrees, but those with durable skills: the ability to think critically, relate emotionally, communicate effectively, work with their hands, and keep learning as conditions change.

At North, Central, and South Seattle Colleges, we prepare students for two equally valuable and viable futures. Some come to

enter high-demand fields directly—skilled trades such as carpentry and cement masonry, and health professions from nursing to public health. These fields depend on physical presence, human judgment, and care. AI may augment that work, but it is unlikely to replace it.

Others come to build the foundation for a four-year degree and the careers that follow: teacher, lawyer, researcher, engineer, policy analyst.

Those careers may indeed be fundamentally altered by AI, and colleges and universities are responding by redesigning curricula to impart not only advanced knowledge, but also the ability to use it critically and ethically, and to communicate and collaborate across disciplines.

For many students, these paths may overlap. Our job is to make sure that when students are ready for what's next, they have the credentials, the skills, and the confidence to take the next step.

In every case, affordability and flexibility are key. The city's rising costs make our colleges both practical and essential.

Last November, Seattle voters approved a six-year extension of Seattle Promise (page 12) and its new Skilled Trades Pathway, broadening access when it matters most. At the same time, state and federal cutbacks—along with the chronic underfunding community colleges have faced for decades—make clear that public commitment alone is not enough.

Public investment opens the door. Philanthropy helps students walk through it. Through our Stay in the Game initiative, you help provide life-changing scholarships, emergency assistance, and advising for thousands of Seattleites. This report shares some of their stories. We couldn't be more grateful for the part you play in making them possible.



The Seattle Colleges ADDING UP THE IMPACT

A 2025 study by the labor-market intelligence firm, Lightcast, documents how the Seattle Colleges are a major engine for the region—supporting jobs, fueling higher earnings, and generating meaningful returns for taxpayers, businesses, and the broader community. The Colleges, it concludes, are “a cornerstone of shared prosperity.”

\$2.1B Annual income added to the King County economy.

17,278 Regional jobs attributable to the Seattle Colleges.

\$5.10 Higher future earnings for every \$1 students invest in a Seattle Colleges education.

\$10,800 Added yearly income for a typical associate degree holder compared to someone who only graduated high school.

Read the full Lightcast report at bit.ly/seattle-impact



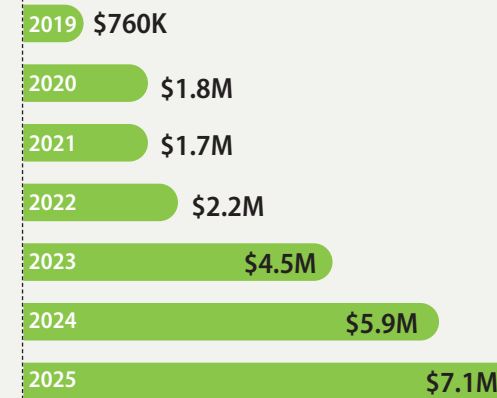
IN 2025, THE FOUNDATION INVESTED
NEARLY \$20,000 EVERY SINGLE DAY
IN SEATTLE COLLEGES STUDENTS.



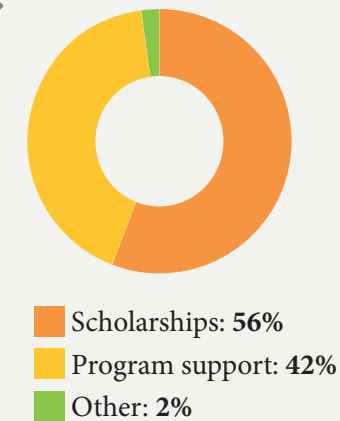
Foundation support of the Colleges \$24 MILLION AND COUNTING

(through June 30, 2025)

FOUNDATION SUPPORT



WHERE THE MONEY GOES



“Our donors recognize that the success of each individual student ripples outward, benefiting their family, their neighborhood, and our whole region. Each contribution is an investment in all of us, and a vote of confidence in our shared future.”





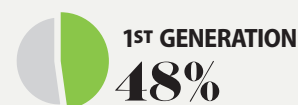
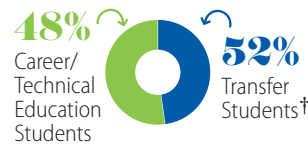
DIVERSE STUDENTS

NUMBER OF STUDENTS*

33,685

MEDIAN AGE

26



FINANCIAL NEED

MEDIAN FAMILY INCOME

\$55,000

WORK WHILE IN SCHOOL

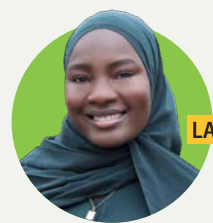
70%

*School year 2024-25.

†These two categories comprise about 2/3 of Seattle Colleges students. The other third are students in basic education/pre-college classes, or non-credit continuing education.

DIVERSE PATHWAYS

130 Programs of Study



LATIFA

Nursing Graduate, Seattle Central College, Seattle Promise Alum.

"I came to America not knowing any English. Now I'm a first-generation college graduate and, I'm told, an inspiration to people who look like me."



RAMON

Business Student, North Seattle College (soon transferring to the University of Washington).

"I plan to use my degree to start my own business so I can hire other justice-impacted individuals and give back to that community."



FLOYD

Welding Fabrication Technology Graduate, South Seattle College, Seattle Promise Alum.

"I'm excited to be joining the trades because they're so important for Seattle's growth... and it's pretty clear that I'm never going to lack for work considering all the building, repair and maintenance that needs to get done."



ALICIA

Political Science Student, Aspiring Transfer, South Seattle College.

"After having children, I realized I want to leave the world better than I found it. I think public policy is a powerful way to do that."

STAY IN THE GAME →

HELPING STUDENTS

round the bases of their education and...

Stay in the game

OVER THE LAST DECADE, Seattle has become one of the most expensive places in the country, ranking fifth out of 386 metro areas nationwide. A new study by the Washington Roundtable finds that expenses have surged especially in the categories that most directly affect students: housing is up 71%, and food is up 60%.

For the working adults, parents, and first-generation students at North, Central, and South Seattle Colleges, the weight of these increases is felt every month: in rent that consumes most of a paycheck, in childcare costs that feel like a mortgage, and in the surprise expenses—a car repair, a missed shift, a medical bill—that can be enough to derail a future.

Grit and determination carry a student only so far. What's needed is the practical backing to keep going.

That's where the Seattle Colleges Foundation comes in. Stay in the Game—launched with a generous lead gift from the Seattle



Mariners—gives students what they need to stay enrolled and finish strong: **scholarships** that make an expensive city a little more manageable; **College and Career Navigators** who help students find the fastest, smartest path to their goals; and

emergency assistance that's there when life throws a curveball.

Stay in the Game is ensuring that talent, effort, and ambition are not defeated by the cost of living. That way more students finish—and more of Seattle's future stays...in Seattle.

Scholarships | College and Career Navigators | Emergency Supports

STAY IN THE GAME →



A group of 2025-26 scholarship recipients celebrate at a January 2026 event.

Bringing a Brighter Future Within Reach

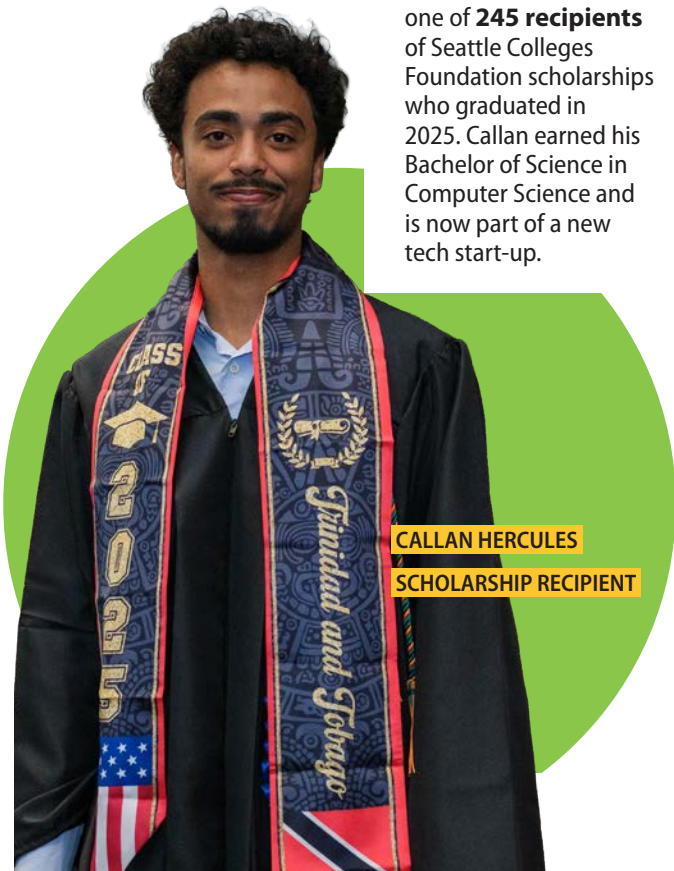
SCHOLARSHIPS

FULL-TIME TUITION at the Seattle Colleges is comparatively low, around \$5,000 a year, and students sometimes benefit from government grants. It's the other expenses—not of school but of life—that pose the affordability challenge.

Rent, utilities, groceries, transportation, and child-care are all costlier in Seattle than almost anywhere in the country. Even when students work (as 70% do), it's hard to make ends meet.

Recent research found an average shortfall of \$4,920 between what students can typically piece together and the true cost of attendance.

That's why a core aim of *Stay in the Game* is not only to give more scholarships, but larger scholarships, averaging \$5,000.



CALLAN HERCULES
SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Callan Hercules was one of **245 recipients** of Seattle Colleges Foundation scholarships who graduated in 2025. Callan earned his Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and is now part of a new tech start-up.

"It's not just the money. It's knowing there are people who believe in the future I'm trying to build."

ANOUK HAYAMI
SEATTLE MARITIME ACADEMY



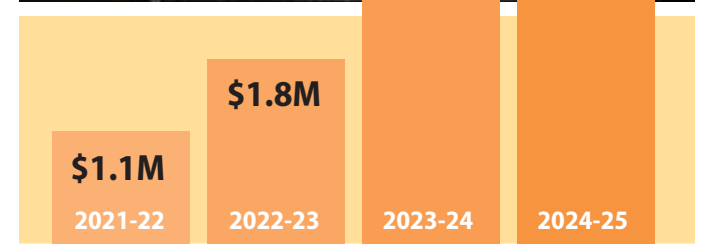
A scholarship winner sees a future on the sea

ANOUK GREW UP on the water. Raised in Florida, she spent her childhood kayaking, exploring rivers, and watching marine life from clear-bottom boats run by her parents' kayak company. When her family moved to Seattle, she carried that curiosity with her—and ultimately to **Seattle Maritime Academy**, a division of Seattle Central College.

The fiery 18-year-old is loving all of it: crawling into tight spaces, learning navigation and meteorology, and building skills for a life at sea. "I realize all my characteristics and traits led me here," she says.

Her long-term goal is to become a captain and serve aboard research vessels.

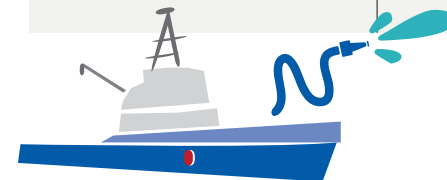
Getting here required more than determination. Barely out of high school and already on her own, Anouk needed financial support to focus fully on the program. A *Stay in the Game* Scholarship from the Seattle Colleges Foundation made it possible. "It's not just the money," she says. "It's knowing there are people who believe in the future I'm trying to build."



SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING

+261%

THANKS TO GENEROUS DONORS



1,775 Awards | Annual Scholarship Average: \$4,868

STAY IN THE GAME →



Students with first-year advising are **↑15%** more likely than peers to continue to the next quarter

Helping students quickly identify and reach their goals

COLLEGE & CAREER NAVIGATORS

WITH EIGHT broad areas of study and more than 130 programs, the Seattle Colleges can overwhelm anyone. That can be particularly true for someone returning to school after a long absence, who's

supporting a family, who faces language or cultural barriers, or who's overcoming past academic setbacks—the circumstances of many of our students. College and career navigators work one-on-one

with students to identify courses that fit their goals. They also make connections to tutoring, financial resources, material supports like tools and uniforms, and ultimately internships and jobs.



ADDING FIRST-YEAR STUDENT ADVISORS AT CENTRAL PAYS OFF

EVERY YEAR, hundreds of students arrive at Seattle Central with great ambition but little clear direction. It can be a prescription for floundering and stalling out—unless they're quickly matched to quality support.

That's just what a generous donor investment has made possible. With \$320,000 in support from the Loeb Family Foundation, Seattle Central dramatically expanded its **First Year and Career Services (FYCS)**.

The FYCS team is dedicated to helping students explore career paths, build confidence, and make informed choices about their

futures. The approach is holistic and culturally responsive, meaning it meets students where they are instead of forcing them into a one-size-fits-all model.

The results speak for themselves. Over the last two years, FYCS has supported 2,500 students—a 32% jump in engagement.

Another number stands out even more: among students who hadn't yet picked a program of study (and who are often the most likely to stop out), first-quarter advising participation jumped from just 6% to 29% in a single year. That's catching students right when they need it most.

“Sometimes determination isn't enough—you need a support system to succeed. We appreciate that Seattle Colleges' navigators are making sure students aren't just starting school, but finishing it, by enabling them to overcome obstacles that might otherwise force them to give up. Helping these students succeed strengthens our local workforce and our community's future.”

RICHARD AND FRANCINE LOEB LOEB FAMILY FOUNDATION

“I didn't know where to start. I was scared to even ask questions. But my advisor didn't just tell me what classes to take, they helped me believe I belonged here.”

SEATTLE CENTRAL STUDENT

A Standout Success

At the Colleges' trades-focused Georgetown campus, the presence of a dedicated navigator led to

↑15% Pre-apprenticeship enrollment

↑58% Completions

↑37% Job placements

“My advisor helped me feel confident again. I came in thinking I just needed help with classes, but I left knowing what I wanted to do next and how to get there.”

SEATTLE CENTRAL STUDENT

STAY IN THE GAME →



Student volunteers at the South Seattle College food pantry.

Helping students meet basic needs EMERGENCY SUPPORTS

SEATTLE COLLEGES STUDENTS shoulder much more than the heavy weight of books and a laptop. They also carry the burden of our city's unforgiving costs, now some of the highest in the country. For many, it's a daily struggle to keep food on the table and a roof overhead.

What this looks like: young parents skipping meals to feed their children, working adults living out of a car between shifts and classes,

first-generation students choosing between textbooks and rent.

The hardships quickly add up. Students facing hunger and housing instability are far likelier to miss classes, see their grades slip, and feel the need to stop out.

Indeed, about half of students who step away from community college say their main reason is financial strain. What begins as a temporary setback—a missed rent

payment, a broken-down car, an unexpected medical bill—quickly snowballs, derailing dreams, since only a fraction ever make it back.

Stay in the Game recognizes that meeting basic needs is fundamental to educational access and equity.

FOOD INSECURITY

OUR STUDENTS	WA STATE
48%	45%

Food insecurity has jumped 14% statewide since 2022.

HOUSING INSECURITY

OUR STUDENTS	WA STATE
45%	38%

This 7-point gap is driven by Seattle's rental market, one of the costliest in the nation.

HOMELESSNESS

OUR STUDENTS	WA STATE
18%	13%

Roughly 1 in 5 Seattle Colleges students have endured homelessness.

In early 2026, Foundation donors enabled special \$100K grants to help each college address their students' basic needs.



NORTH

As Dean of Student Support Services, **Jeanette Miller** oversees the North Seattle College's emergency assistance and basic needs programs, helping students with food, housing, learning technology—and also transportation to get to campus and work.

“Walking into the North Star Food Pantry for the first time was a relief I didn't expect—I actually teared up. Knowing it's there lets me focus in class instead of sitting there wondering what I'm going to eat tonight.”

— North Student

This year, North launched a new food pantry on campus. “It's so popular, it's kind of scary,” she says. “We are filling it with healthy foods that are also culturally sensitive so that everyone feels like they have a little bit of something there.”



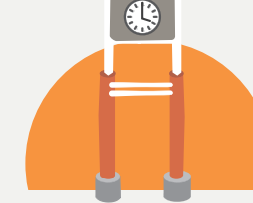
CENTRAL

Amanda Thomas oversees emergency supports at Central as Dean of Workforce Education. She reports that the College's food pantry has expanded into a network of nine mini pantries spread across main campus and satellite facilities like Seattle Maritime Academy and the Wood Technology Center. Over the last year, the pantries have served 1,740 students.

Beyond the food pantries, Seattle Central has used Foundation support to provide one-time emergency grants to 392 students, assisting with unexpected setbacks like medical and car bills, or the sudden departure of a roommate.

“I truly appreciate the time, effort, and care that goes into organizing and running the pantry. Your support makes a real difference in our student community.”

— Central Student



SOUTH

Monica Lundberg, a specialist with the Student Life team at South, reports that the Foundation's recent \$100K grant is helping the College's food pantry meet demand that's up 50 percent over last year, now averaging nearly 200 students a week.

“I'm hungry a lot at school, and a two-hour lecture on an empty stomach sucks. This helps out insanely! The food pantry is awesome.”

— South Student

The funds are helping purchase culturally-diverse food, along with fresh produce from King County farmers, so students have consistent access to fruits and vegetables.

In partnership with South's Culinary program, the pantry also now offers weekly hot soup and fresh sandwiches, ensuring students have full meals, not just shelf-stable snacks.

Another new pantry item: diapers for student parents.



68% of student parents experience basic needs insecurity



76% of student parents who need childcare cannot afford it



84% of young people who aged out of foster care experience food or housing insecurity—or both—as community college students.

Participants in Bridge to Finish, a basic needs support program, were **↑25%** more likely to persist and/or complete a credential than non-participants.

“For many students at our schools, college life is shadowed by hunger and homelessness. But meet those basic needs and students earn higher GPAs, are more likely to stay in school, and feel a greater sense of belonging.”

JEANETTE MILLER NORTH SEATTLE COLLEGE



Free Tuition and Wraparound Supports SEATTLE PROMISE SOARS

SEATTLE PROMISE opens the door to college for every Seattle Public Schools graduate, providing free tuition and intensive wraparound supports at North, Central and South. Today, more than 70 percent of SPS graduates apply, and about one in four enrolls—helping Seattle stand out at a time when college-going rates across Washington remain mostly below pre-pandemic levels.

Launched in 2018 with Seattle’s voter-approved Families, Education, Preschool, and Promise

(FEPP) levy, the program has already enrolled more than 5,500 students. These students are now moving forward into university study and family-wage careers across the region’s most in-demand industries.

Philanthropy plays a vital role in ensuring every Promise scholar can succeed once they arrive on campus. Donors to the Seattle Colleges Foundation—including anchor partners BECU and WSECU—are amplifying the City’s investment by funding

Seattle Promise enrollment since 2019

+347%	
2019	380 students
2021	1,100 students
2023	1,460 students
2025	1,700 students

additional need-based support for students with the greatest financial barriers.



Some of the 352 Seattle Promise students who graduated in 2025.

To date, nearly 300 Promise students have continued their education at the University of Washington through the *Path to UW* initiative.

Voters Back Seattle Promise’s New Skilled Trades Pathway

SEATTLE VOTERS renewed and expanded the Families, Education, Preschool, and Promise levy in 2025, extending Seattle Promise through 2032 and investing in a new **Skilled Trades Pathway**.

This expansion will support students as early as 9th grade in exploring high-demand, AI-resilient programs and careers like construction, welding, automotive technology, and more.



80% of Seattle voters said YES to the 2025 FEPP levy renewal

up from 69% in 2018



STEVE AND SHARON HULING AUTO TECH CENTER

SOUTH

Powering State-of-the-Art Auto Tech

THE STEVE AND SHARON Huling Automotive Technology Center at South has received a **\$1.57M federal grant**—the only of its kind in Washington—to launch a 10-week EV & Hybrid Service Technician Certificate program.

It will utilize a new Consulab EV simulator, demonstrated here by instructor Teryn Kilgore. To celebrate the certificate program, the Hulings are continuing their longtime generosity by endowing new Seattle Colleges Foundation scholarships.

NORTH

From Idea to Enterprise

A NEW ENTREPRENEURSHIP HUB is taking shape at North, powered by a \$500,000 anonymous gift secured by the Seattle Colleges Foundation. The Hub will bring together Business Administration, Accounting, and International Business programs to help students and community members turn their ideas into thriving ventures.

Whether it’s a welding student with a breakthrough fabrication concept, an IT student building an inventive app, or an immigrant entrepreneur with global trade connections, anyone with an idea will be able to tap into a network of mentors, workshops, and hands-on support. Alongside their classes, participants will gain practical skills—reading financial statements, setting prices, managing teams, and navigating global markets.

The goal is simple: give every innovator the tools and confidence to turn their spark of inspiration into a lasting enterprise.



Foundation scholar and 2025 North grad **MATÍAS SAENZ** won the nation’s most prestigious BA/BS transfer scholarship from the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation, earning him a full ride at UC Berkeley.



CHEF AARON VERZOSA

An alum of Seattle Central’s Seattle Culinary Academy, Chef Aaron Verzosa is co-founder of the acclaimed Filipino-American restaurant, Archipelago. It’s a **three-time nominee for a James Beard honor**, in 2026 for Verzosa as outstanding US chef.



DURETI SHEMAI

Dureti is excited to be working at the frontier of information technology, having landed a position as a Solution Architect at the prominent **artificial intelligence company**, Snowflake.ai.

“I owe it all to North,” she says. “The new Data Science track within the BS in Computer Science program was the perfect preparation.”

Dureti graduated in June 2025, supported by a **Seattle Colleges Foundation scholarship**.



BY ANNIE TEMPEST

BY MAX MORENO REBOLLAR

Looks by Annie Tempest and Max Moreno Rebollar, two standout Seattle Central Apparel Design & Development students, were featured during Bellevue Fashion Week’s **NEW + NEXT 2025** show.

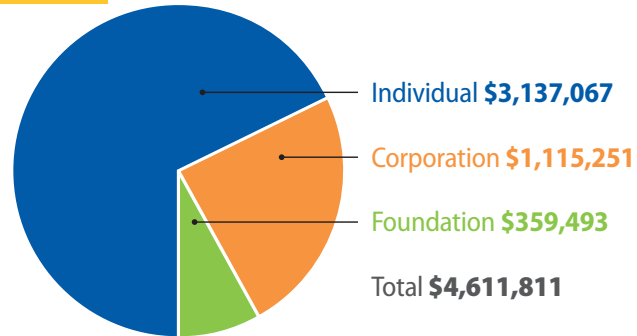
Max’s look presented technically driven sportswear with vintage details.

Annie’s look spotlighted nature-inspired, regenerative design.

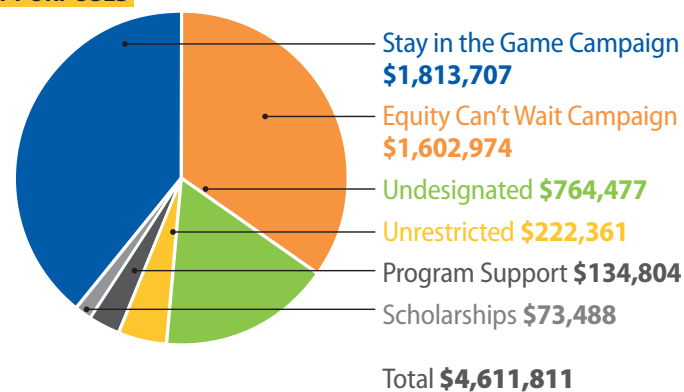
Statement of Financial Position

July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025

GIFT SOURCES



GIFT PURPOSES



Assets	JUNE 30, 2025	JUNE 30, 2024
Cash and cash equivalents	12,293,457	11,024,108
Investments	36,323,122	34,939,858
Pledge receivable	2,564,198	3,928,224
Prepaid expenses	112,658	64,910
Property & Equipment	14,174	-
Total Assets	\$51,307,609	\$49,957,100

Liabilities	JUNE 30, 2025	JUNE 30, 2024
Accounts Payable	1,229,359	567,854
Scholarship Payable	2,664,121	1,982,120
Total Liabilities	\$3,893,480	\$2,549,974

Net Assets	JUNE 30, 2025	JUNE 30, 2024
Without donor restrictions	8,594,174	7,729,503
With donor restrictions	38,819,955	39,677,623
Total Net Assets	\$47,414,129	\$47,407,126

Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$51,307,609	\$49,957,100
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Sincere Thanks to Paula, Jon, Jesse and thousands of other supporters

PAULA SELIS

JON FINE

JON FINE AND PAULA SELIS have built their lives around public service, and now they're turning that same commitment toward Seattle Colleges students with a powerful set of planned gifts.

Their estate plans will fuel two funds: the **Districtwide Completion Scholarship** and the new **Jon Fine and Paula Selis Endowment for Student Completion**, both focused on students in their final one or two quarters who need a last financial push to finish strong and step confidently into the region's economy.

Jon led United Way of King County as CEO for nearly 19 years, earning a reputation as a bold, data-driven champion for community impact. He later served as board chair of the Seattle Colleges Foundation and co-chair of its Equity Can't Wait campaign. Paula, a former senior attorney in the Washington State Attorney General's Office and a trusted civic leader in her own right, deeply shares in the conviction that education changes lives. Together, they're helping open doors to prosperity for new generations of Seattleites.

JESSE KINKEAD puts it very simply. "I wouldn't be here—in this career, in any position to give money—if it weren't for Seattle Central." Kinkead, a 2000 grad, is now a successful software engineer and steadfast supporter of the Seattle Colleges.

Looking back on his career, Jesse credits Central with giving him a new foundation after his rocky high school years. "Central was the place I was able to go and prove that I could be a good student," he recalls. "Plus, I could afford it. I didn't have

help from my parents, but between grants, scholarships, and a part-time job, I could cover my tuition and rent."

More than 20 years, a bachelor's, and a master's degree later, Jesse gives back through monthly recurring donations to support today's hardworking students at the Seattle Colleges. "I don't think a lot of people understand the impact these local community colleges have, from the trades to helping students shift into a new career path," he says. "It's really a public good."

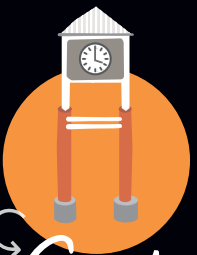
JESSE KINKEAD



North



Central



South



To lend your support, please visit seattlecolleges.edu/givenow