



## RAINIER SCHOLARS

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### **Rainier Scholars Celebrates 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Luncheon: “Charting a Course to College and Beyond”**

SEATTLE – On Tuesday, April 24th, nearly 1,200 business and community leaders gathered at the Sheraton Seattle Hotel to attend the 12th Annual Rainier Scholars Luncheon. Rainier Scholars is a non-profit organization serving hard-working, low-income students of color by offering rigorous academics, social-emotional support and professional development. Starting in fifth grade, scholars embark on a transformational 12-year journey to college graduation and beyond.

Rainier Scholars, together with individual donors, corporate sponsors and school partners raised nearly 38% of the annual operating budget necessary to support its mission and the 700+ students in the program.

In the words of luncheon speaker and Cohort 4 alum Duyen Tat, *“I take pride in the uncommon path I’ve taken. I am afforded the privilege of charting my own course and making my own choices. At 18, I looked down the road of the rest of my life and was floored by the infinite possibilities before me. The greatest gift Rainier Scholars has given me is that of choice.”*

Special guests at the luncheon were the many scholars attending as representatives from their respective cohorts. This included middle school students just starting on the college prep pathway, as well as high school seniors proudly wearing sweatshirts from their colleges of choice. Joining them were 2018 college graduates from around the country, including scholars from Allegheny College, Colgate University, Eastern Washington University, Emory University, Morehouse College, University of Washington, Seattle University and Washington State University. Among those in the audience applauding the accomplishments of these scholars was a growing Rainier Scholars alumni group. Over 25 alums attended the luncheon as business professionals supporting the organization that once supported them.

The luncheon celebration was anchored by a [video](#) presentation, *“Charting a Course to College and Beyond”*. It featured two scholars at both ends of the 12-year journey – Ossie Trinide, a 5<sup>th</sup> grader who started Rainier Scholars last summer, and Leo Rozal, an alum from Cohort 1 who is about to begin his medical residency at UC Davis. Both shared their unique experiences with Rainier Scholars and common desire to build lives of leadership and service.

The event was made possible through the generous support of 42 sponsors, demonstrating the strong alliance between Rainier Scholars and the local business community, including Valedictorian sponsors Amazon, Matt & Evelyne and Premera Blue Cross, along with signature sponsorships from The Brandon Roy Foundation, The Padden Family, Baird Private Wealth Management, The Benaroya Company, The Boeing Company, Charlie’s Produce, Endeavour Capital, Goldman Sachs, Harley Marine Services, Madrona Venture Group, Microsoft, Nordstrom, Polygon Northwest, Saltchuk, Tableau and an array of others.

To learn more about Rainier Scholars and its mission to increase college graduation rates and empower new generations of diverse leaders, visit [www.rainierscholars.org](http://www.rainierscholars.org) or view our [e-brochure](#)

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