Rainier Scholars Annual Report 2019–2020
To our supporters

When we set out to commemorate our 20th anniversary, we had plans for a special year.

2020 has indeed been a year full of surprises, beyond what we anticipated or hoped.

Fortunately, a thoughtful reorganization that enables us to more effectively provide ongoing targeted support to scholars, a dedicated staff, and scholars and families who have shown incredible resilience have enabled us to thrive in the midst of a pandemic and an urgent social justice movement. This year, we have truly fulfilled the core values upon which Rainier Scholars was founded.

As our outgoing Executive Director Sarah Smith noted, our 20th anniversary year will indeed be unforgettable, not because of the conditions that constrained us, but because of the number of ways we rose to the challenge.

Please enjoy these highlights of 2019-20. More than just statistics and program outcomes, they reflect the nimbleness, creativity and spirit of our staff and scholars.

Sincerely,

Monica R. Parker | Acting Executive Director

“It is hard for me to accept that people had low expectations for me, even before I was born. I know I am better than people think, and at Rainier Scholars I’ve learned I am capable of even more.”

David | Cohort 11
A 12-year journey to college graduation

Our mission

Rainier Scholars cultivates the academic potential and leadership skills of hardworking, underrepresented students of color. By creating access to transformative educational and career opportunities and providing comprehensive support to scholars and families, we increase college graduation rates and empower new generations of leaders.

Rainier Scholars provides twelve years of comprehensive support, spanning 5th grade through college.
The hallmarks of our program are intensive academic preparation and long-term academic support, including targeted college counseling. Our scholars benefit from strong one-on-one relationships with their academic counselors and are inspired by creative, accessible teachers. That hasn’t changed.

On March 12, schools in the greater Seattle area closed due to Covid-19. The following week, Rainier Scholars pivoted to providing online academic enrichment and support, which continued throughout the school year and into our summer session.

- Prior to the pandemic, our Cohort 19 scholars each received nearly 500 hours of in-person academic enrichment. They each received an additional 180 hours of virtual academic enrichment from March through July.
- Nearly 125 middle-schoolers participated in in-depth literature seminars.
- We provided 250+ hours of college application support for high school juniors and seniors.
- We offered a virtual College 101 retreat to prepare high school seniors for an unusual start to their college experience.
- Academic counselors maintained regular contact with each of their students.

“Academic support and the pivot to online learning

“I want to pass my legacy down to future cohorts so they can see what’s possible if you do the work. There are no shortcuts or elevators, only stairs to success.”

Diana | Cohort 15
Support when it matters most

“We pair rigorous academic enrichment and academic learning skills with support in building identity and resilience. We also offer holistic mental health support.

We met the challenges of a global pandemic and an urgent social justice movement by increasing our individual scholar support and enhancing our community building efforts.

- We created a Resource portal on our website to share our Community Resources (in English and Spanish) and Learning Resources, including literacy tools with book lists and reading guides.
- We offered reverse parent-teacher conferences, with teachers contacting parents to provide support.
- Chrome books or laptops were distributed to every family in need, and we ensured WIFI capability for all families without a reliable Internet connection.
- Our Academic Counseling team maintained regular check-ins with every scholar and family across the program, providing critical links and information regarding current and emerging emergency needs.
- We doubled-down on community building, offering virtual community luncheons, weekly study sessions and weekly high school socials.

"Rainier Scholars helped me gain academic and professional opportunities and a sense of empowerment to determine the course of my life and the impact I want to make on the world."

Miles | Cohort 4
Meeting the moment: racial justice

The Black Lives Matter movement and a renewed focus on racial inequity have highlighted the importance of the work we’ve been doing for 20 years.

We have continued work on one of our key strategic initiatives—supporting multi-generational African American scholars and families. We’ve also strengthened our career and leadership development programming, engaging our scholars in profound discussions on dismantling racism in society, schools and workplaces and encouraging them to be leaders and courageous problem solvers.

• We held four workshops for Black families, focused on fostering a sense of belonging, increasing parents’ ability to support their children and building momentum on the college graduation pathway.
• We expanded early career exposure through teen exploration workshops and increased access to meaningful summer opportunities, including pre-collegiate programs, Girls Who Code, Washington Business Week Summer Program, RadioActive Youth Media and many more.
• We revamped our grade-level leadership workshops and seminars. Guiding questions enabled scholars to focus on important current events.
• We facilitated 75 high school and college summer internship placements.
• Our first-ever virtual Career Expo was attended by over 100 scholars and alumni and 40 presenters, featuring six alumni-led career pathway panels and several skill development workshops, including tips on how to pandemic-proof your job search and a plenary on Worktivism: Racial Equity in Practice.

“Rainier Scholars changed my life for the better. I had an amazing academic enrichment opportunity and gained a strong support system for my education and future endeavors.”

Denzel | Cohort 3

“We are not meeting the current moment. The moment is catching up with us.”

Kaila Davis Nsimbi
Director of Leadership and Career Development

“Rainier Scholars Annual Report 2019–2020”

Mission and Impact

Partners

Celebrating 20 Years

Financials

Contributors
School partners

Annie Wright Schools
Billings Middle School
Bishop Blanchet High School
The Bush School
The Downtown School
Eastside Preparatory School
The Evergreen School
Explorer West Middle School
Forest Ridge School of the Sacred Heart
Highline Public Schools
Kennedy Catholic High School
Lake Washington Girls Middle School
Lakeside School
The Northwest School
O’Dea High School
Oregon Episcopal School
The Overlake School
Phillips Exeter Academy
Rainier Prep
Raisbeck Aviation High School
Renton Public Schools
Seattle Academy
Seattle Country Day School
Seattle Girls’ School
Seattle Lutheran High School
Seattle Preparatory School
Seattle Public Schools
Soundview School
St. George School
The Thacher School
University Prep
Villa Academy
Westside School

Special thanks to our school and community partners who provide in-kind contributions through facilities and program support:

Aki Kurose Middle School
The Bush School
The Downtown School
Seattle University
South Shore PK-8 School
University Prep
Whitman College

We are grateful for all our school partnerships in public, private and independent schools throughout the Puget Sound region and beyond.

Colleges and universities attended

Agnes Scott College
Allegheny College
American University
Art Center College of Design
Bard College
 Bates College
Bellevue College
Boston College
Boston University
Bowdoin College
Brandeis University
California Polytechnic State University
Carleton College
Carnegie Mellon University
Central Washington University
Chapman University
Claremont McKenna College
Colgate University
College of Wooster
Columbia University
Connecticut College
Dartmouth College
Davidson College
Denison University
Eastern Washington University
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University – Prescott
Emory University
Eugene Lang College
Evergreen State College
Franklin & Marshall College
George Washington University
Georgetown University
Gonzaga University
Goucher College
Harvard College
Harvey Mudd College
Highline College
Howard University
Ithaca College
 Johns Hopkins University
Kalamazoo College
Knox College
 Lafayette College
Loyola Marymount University
Macalester College
Manhattan Christian College
Marist College
Marlboro College
Middlebury College
Mills College
Morehouse College
Mt. Holyoke College
New York University
North Seattle College
Northeastern University
Northwestern University
Oberlin College
Occidental College
Ohio State University
Pacific Lutheran University
Parsons School of Design
Pitzer College
Pomona College
Pratt Institute
Princeton University
Santa Clara University
Scripps College
Seattle Central College
Seattle Pacific University
Seattle University
Seton Hall University
Shoreline Community College
Simmons College
Skidmore College
Smith College
South Seattle College
Southern Methodist University
Spelman College
St. John’s University (NY)
St. Olaf College
Stanford University
Suffolk University
Swarthmore College
Syracuse University
Tufts University
Union College
University of Alaska–Fairbanks
University of Chicago
University of La Verne
University of Miami
University of Michigan
University of New Mexico
University of Notre Dame
University of Oregon
University of Pennsylvania
University of Rochester
University of Southern California
University of Washington
University of Washington–Bothell
University of Washington–Tacoma
Wake Forest University
Washington State University
Wellesley College
Wesleyan University
Western Governors University
Western Washington University
Whatcom College
Whitman College
Williams College
Yale University
Thank you to the following companies for their depth and breadth of involvement, offering financial support, employee engagement, internship opportunities and full-time employment for scholars.

Keystone partners
Amazon
BMGI
The Boeing Company
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center
Google
Honeywell
Liberty Mutual
Logic20/20
MCM
Nordstrom
Perkins Coie LLP
Slaksha
Slalom Consulting

Internship partners
21 Progress
Amazon Web Services
Art with Heart
Baird
BMGI
Boys & Girls Clubs of King County
Breakthrough Collaborative
Casa Colina Hospital and Centers for Healthcare
Cascadia Consulting
Charlie’s Produce
Chinook Capital Advisors
Church World Service
Codeblack Films
COPE Health Scholars
Credit Suisse
Cyborg Mobile
Deutsche Bank
Ekata
Electroimpact
EPA, County of Santa Clara
Epiphany School
evo
Expedia
Floop Edu
Forterra
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center
Giddens School
Girls Who Invest, Oregon State Treasurer’s Office
Glowforge
GoDaddy
Green Plate Special
Harper Engineering
Harvey Mudd College,
Undergraduate Summer Research
Helsell Fetterman
Hemanson Company
IMCO Construction
Institute for Systems Biology
Kaiser Permanente
Kiewit
King County Water & Land Resources Division
Landesa
Last Mile
Legal Voice
Liberty Mutual
Lincoln International
Macquarie Group
Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship
Methow Valley Riding Unlimited
Micron Technology
Microsoft
New Americans Fellowship
New Engen
New Technologists
Northwest Folklife
Northwestern Mutual
Nurturing Roots
Pacific Northwest Research Institute
PATH
PEMCO
Perkins Coie
Pomona Hope
Rainier Prep
Renton Innovation Zone Partnership
Rios Immigration Law, P.S.
Russell Investments

20th anniversary partners
As we mark the 20th anniversary of Rainier Scholars, we are deeply grateful to our sponsors who remain resolute in their support of educational equity.

We are grateful to our internship partners who share a commitment to advancing diversity in the workplace while investing in tomorrow’s leaders.

Thank you to the following companies for their depth and breadth of involvement, offering financial support, employee engagement, internship opportunities and full-time employment for scholars.

Business and community partners

View our ad in Puget Sound Business Journal thanking our sponsors
Celebrating 20 years of impact

In 2020, after 20 years of dedication, founding staff member and Executive Director Sarah Smith concluded her service with Rainier Scholars. During Sarah’s tenure we’ve impacted thousands of scholars, families, schools and workplaces and achieved college completion outcomes that are incomparable for programs of this kind. We are enormously grateful for Sarah’s commitment to equity in education and pledge to continue her vision.

- We have just recruited our 20th cohort of scholars.
- Over 800 scholars continue on their journey towards a college degree, professional career and lives of leadership and service.
- Rainier Scholars have attended over 100 different colleges and universities.
- We have facilitated over 800 internships.
- Nearly 250 alumni are pursuing graduate education in medicine, law, business or other PhD programs or have embarked on careers in Business and Finance, STEM, Environmental and Social Impact, Arts, Culture and Media, Design, Government, Law and Public Policy and more.

2019–2020 outcomes

- 91% placement on college prep pathways in public and private schools for rising sixth-graders
- 95% admission to four-year colleges and universities
- 89% of all scholars who matriculated have received or are on track to receive a college degree
- 89% of all high school and college scholars are engaging in community or leadership activities
- 95% overall program retention
Financial results

Audited financial results for the fiscal year July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020 (excludes restricted funds)

**Revenue**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individuals</td>
<td>$2,659,786</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporations</td>
<td>$1,188,568</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundations</td>
<td>$475,603</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>$83,662</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
<td><strong>$4,407,619</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Expenses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academic Enrichment</td>
<td>$1,168,994</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic Counseling</td>
<td>$1,324,451</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leadership &amp; Career</td>
<td>$907,409</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Program</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,400,854</strong></td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>$298,974</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>$692,673</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$4,392,501</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net</strong></td>
<td><strong>$15,118</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“Dreams and stars have always been a part of my life. My mom’s dream to be an engineer now burns bright in me. To have the love of my family and the Rainier Scholars community has changed my life.”

Jasmine | Cohort 10
Business partners

Thank you to those business partners that offer support through grant funding, matching gifts, event sponsorship, pro bono services and cash or in-kind donations.

Anonymous
ACG Seattle
AFH Salon
Affinity
Ahlers Cressman & Sleight PLLC
AI Industries
Alaska Airlines
Aldridge
Alex Dunlop Golf
All New Glass, Inc
Alliance Packaging
Amazon
Ankrom Moisan Architects
Apollo Mechanical
Artemis Connection, Inc
AstraZeneca
Auburn Mechanical
Bard Private Wealth Management
Bank of America
BECU
Belashee Photography
Berntson Porter & Company, PLLC
Betschart Mechanical, Inc
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Big G Express
Bigger Boat Consulting
BlackRock
Blue Fern Development
BMGI
BMWC Constructors, Inc
The Boeing Company
Brighton Jones
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Crewworks
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DCI Engineers
Deeny Construction Co
DeLille Cellars
Division 9 Flooring
DotClick
Dot Foods, Inc
Endeavour Capital
EPIC Building Detailers LLC
evo
FS Networks
Fannie Mae
Fire & Vine Hospitality
Firstline Systems, Inc
Foy Group Corporation
G&L Holdings, Inc
Gates Ventures
Genentech
Genworth
Ghirardelli Chocolate Company
Goldman Sachs
Goodfellow Bros
Google
The Gottman Institute, Inc
Gramercy Cellars
Grayhawk Construction
Greenfield Institute
GreenRubino
Guardian Cellars
Guidehouse
Hello Robin
Heritage Realty
Hermanson Company
Hills Clark Martin & Peterson P.S.
Holmberg Mechanical
Interior Technology Inc
ISEC Inc
Johnson & Johnson
Johnson O’Hare Co, Inc
Jones Lang LaSalle
Kaiser Permanente
KHS&S Contractors
Lagunitas Brewing Co
Larkmead Vineyards
Leewens Corporation
Legacy Group
Liberty Bar
Liberty Mutual
Logic20/20
Logo Unltd
MacDonald-Miller Facility Solutions
Madrona Venture Group
Make It Matter LLC
Malin Hughes
MBI Construction Services, Inc
McClure Construction Company
McKinney Group Inc
McKinsey
McKinstry
Microsoft
Moz Contributions
Museum of Pop Culture
NBBJ
New Seasons Market
NWHL
Nike
Nintendo
Nordstrom
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Novelty Hill Winery
OAC Services, Inc
Optimism Brewing Company
Orca Running
Pacific Portfolio Consulting, LLC
Pacific Science Center
Pagliacci Pizza
Patriot Fire Protection
Persh Partners
Performance Contracting Inc
Perkins & Will
Pine Street Group LLC
Piveta Brothers Construction, Inc
PLUMMER HARRINGTON
Executive Search
PMI Worldwide
Precision Electric Group, Inc
Premera Blue Cross
Premier Power Electric
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Prime & Consulting
PRIME Electric
Prospect Construction, Inc
PSF Mechanical, Inc
Pugh Capital Management
Quadrant Homes
RealNetworks
Red Door
Redwing Cafe
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Russell Investments
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Salty’s Seafood Grills
Schneider – West
Sea Fare Expositions, Inc
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Seattle Mariners
Seattle Seahawks
Seattle Sounders FC
Seattle Storm
Sephora
Sequoyah Electric
Siemer Milling Company
Simple Mills
Skanska
Slalom Consulting
Snyder Roofing of Washington, LLC
Starbucks Coffee Company
State Auto
Steve Sticco PLLC
Storyville Coffee
StrataCore
Strategic Medical Management LLC
Sweetener Products Company
Swinerton
Tableau Software
Taco Art Museum
Taco Rainiers
TITAN Earthwork LLC
T-Mobile
The Tombras Group
TripAdvisor
Twillio
Univest Rentals
University Mechanical Contractors Inc
Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle
Uwajimaya
Valley Electric Co
VECA Electric & Technologies
Verizon NW
Vulcan Inc
W&W Wells Millwork LLC
Weyerhaeuser
Wheelhouse DMG
Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati
The Woodhouse Wine Estates
ZT Systems
Foundations

Anonymous (2)  
Apex Foundation  
Arakawa Foundation  
Baird Foundation  
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation  
BlackRock Foundation  
Brandon Roy Foundation  
Charles D. and Mary A. Bauer Foundation  
CHOICE Charitable Trust  
Fordham Street Foundation  
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Johnson & Haefling Family Foundation  
Larry Benaroya Family Foundation  
Leo Maddox Foundation  
Liberty Mutual Foundation  
Live Like Raija  
Loeb Family Charitable Foundation  
Medina Foundation  
The Norcliffe Foundation  
The Paul G. Allen Family Foundation  
The Peach Foundation  
Perkins Coie Foundation  
The Prime Foundation  
RealNetworks Foundation  
Satterberg Foundation  
Seattle Foundation  
Seattle Seahawks Charitable Foundation  
Sheng-Yen Lu Foundation  
The Paul G. Allen Family Foundation  
Washington Women’s Foundation  
Wells Fargo Foundation  
Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati Foundation

Legacy Circle

We are grateful to our donors who have given at any level for 12 years, the same timespan our scholars commit to their future.

View the list of Legacy Circle donors

Leadership Circle

We honor our donors who have surpassed $50,000 in cumulative giving, investing in a scholar’s journey from 5th grade through college graduation.

View the list of Leadership Circle donors
Thank you to the 1,510 individual and in-kind donors who contributed $2,659,786 to make our work possible in 2019–2020.

Individual donors

- 10 donors | $50,000 and above
- 16 donors | $25,000 and above
- 19 donors | $15,000 and above
- 39 donors | $10,000 and above
- 70 donors | $5,000 and above
- 74 donors | $2,500 and above
- 239 donors | $1,000 and above
- 189 donors | $500 and above
- 176 donors | $250 and above
- 678 donors | Up to $250

Thank you to the 467 volunteers who invested 3,260 hours of their time and talent in 2019–2020.

Memorial gifts

Thank you to the donors who have made named memorial gifts

View the list of individual donors

View the list of memorial gifts
Rainier Scholars leadership

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