Another year has come and gone, and again we have much to celebrate and be grateful for. Our Scholars have continued to demonstrate that no matter what the world throws at them, they are committed to creating a better life for themselves and their families. We’ve continued to grow our organization in order to ensure we can meet the evolving needs of our Scholars. We’ve made additional improvements to key elements of our programming, such as training and mentoring, and introduced additional services for our Scholars. Our Palmer Pathways Pre-Apprenticeship program has seen several new partners come into the fold, and we’ve been able to celebrate the successes of our first two cohorts of Scholars under our new model. We’ve grown our board, ensuring that not only do we have a group of leaders with diverse experiences and skill sets guiding our organization, but that these leaders reflect our community and the young people we serve. Much has changed over the course of the past 40 years. One thing that has not changed, however, is our resolve to walk alongside our Scholars as they identify, pursue, and achieve their goals - no matter where they start, no matter what their path. We thank you for your ongoing support of our Scholars - we couldn’t do this work without you!

With much love and gratitude,

Jonathan Jackson, MBA
Executive Director

Amalia Perez
Board President

A NOTE FROM LEADERSHIP
Celebrating 40 Years of Serving Pierce County
Report Card for 2021-2022 School Year

SCHOLARS SERVED
- 206
- 188 in Legacy
- 18 in Pathways

STUDENT LOANS
- 90%
- Of scholars took $5,000 or less in student loans

GROWTH IN SCHOLARS SERVED
- +7%
- From FYE2021 to FYE2022

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING
- $346,642 awarded

GRADUATION RATE
- 85%
- Compared to 11% for students in similar demographics

INCOME GROWTH
- +32%
- From FYE2021 to FYE2022

40 YEARS OF BREAKING BARRIERS
HONORING THOSE WE LOST IN 2022

Two Champions for Palmer Scholars Pass Away

Rev. Alfred Davis

Rev. Alfred Davis was one half of the Palmer Scholars founding duo, alongside our namesake Merle Palmer. Though his name is not represented on our logo, Rev. Davis' impact on Palmer Scholars and the greater Tacoma and Pierce County community will span generations. Rev. Davis's church, the Eastside Community Church (now known as the Eastside Assembly of Believers), served as the host for our first six Scholars. Rev. Davis used his deep connection to Tacoma to advance economically disadvantaged youth of color. Without him, Palmer Scholars would not be what it is today.

Sally Jo Bose

Sally Jo Bose served as Palmer Scholars' Executive Director from 2013-2018. Under her direction, Palmer Scholars grew from one full-time staff member to four, developed a Postsecondary Readiness Training curriculum, and began accepting Scholars in their junior year, rather than senior year of high school. Sally nurtured many key partnerships, including Tacoma Sunrise Rotary. In 2021, she was named an Emeritus Board Member.

Both Sally and Rev. Davis have scholarships established in their honor, administered through Palmer Scholars. If you would like to make a donation to these funds, go to palmerscholars.org/donate.
After nearly three years of virtual programming, the Palmer Scholars Legacy program has returned to in-person training for its high school Scholars. In October, the team hosted a county-wide FAFSA/WASFA workshop at Foss High School in partnership with the Foundation for Tacoma Students. Our staff presented to students and their families in both English and Spanish about all things financial aid.

At Palmer Scholars, we are committed to meeting our Scholars and their families where they are. We also recognize that trust needs to be built not only with our Scholars, but also with their families. To do this, we keep in communication with families to ensure they know we are not trying to replace them, but instead are adding to the support systems they have already cultivated for their Scholars.

Palmer Scholar Alumna Supports Next Generation of Tacoma Postsecondary Students

2017 alumna of the program, Andrea CS is now the newest Academic Advisor at Tacoma Community College! Andrea brings a wealth of knowledge to the field and is ready to support Pierce County's future as they pursue higher education. Fun fact: Andrea's Palmer Scholars mentor Farrington ended up becoming our Director of Scholar Support in 2020!
40 YEARS OF SAGE ADVICE

Mentoring Program Changes through the Years

What started as Rev. Al Davis and Merle Palmer offering advice to the young people in their lives 40 years ago has turned into a county-wide movement to support young people as they transition into adulthood. Over the past 40 years, Palmer Scholars has hosted hundreds of mentors from the community who have walked with their Scholar mentees through the college application process, high school graduation, break ups, job interviews, and more. Now, with Palmer Connections, mentoring has never been easier. Mentors can access the online platform from the comfort of their homes and young people throughout Pierce County can access the wisdom and knowledge that their community has to offer.

In 2022, Palmer Connections has grown to 224 users and has seen dozens of connections made between mentors and mentees. The network that Palmer Connections provides not only Palmer Scholars but also young people across Pierce County aims to change the academic and professional trajectory of the next generation.

Join Palmer Connections Today!

Want to mentor youth and young adults in your community? Sign up today at connections.palmerscholars.org
"I want to personally thank everyone who has supported the James Chatman scholarship and Palmer Scholars in general. Their continual financial support and check-ins have helped me persist through the tough times. I promise to continue Mr. Chatman's legacy by giving back to my community once I get into my own career!"

Sean G.
Lincoln HS '19
University of Washington '23
James Chatman Game Changer Scholarship Recipient

PARTNERING FOR SUCCESS

Two Named Scholarships Established

Palmer Scholars has grown its named scholarship partners from 12 to 14 in the last year. The scholarship partners, the Panago Foundation and the Carlisle Family have committed to supporting Palmer Scholars who have a strong record of serving their community. These scholarship partners join our growing list of partners who recognize the importance of providing not only financial support but also socioemotional support for a young person progressing through higher education.

Panago Legacy Scholarship

The Panago Foundation

This scholarship is awarded to a Scholar who has a history of community service.

Carlisle Family Scholarship

The Carlisle Family

This scholarship is awarded to a Scholar who has a history of community service.

All Scholarship recipients receive the added benefits of Postsecondary Readiness Training, mentoring, and ongoing socioemotional support through postsecondary or apprenticeship program completion. Want to establish your own named scholarship with Palmer Scholars? Contact us at giving@palmerscholars.org.
Merle Palmer and Rev. Al Davis both recognized the strengths of young people in their community. Together, they worked to establish the Eastside Community Scholarship Fund to financially support and provide mentorship to young adults of color pursuing higher education.

Merle Palmer Provides First Scholarship to Sol DiaEze

Rev. Davis and Merle Palmer Partner for Impact

Organization Incorporates; Is dubbed Palmer Scholars
"It blows my mind to be able to honor the partnership that my father and Merle had! When I think about my father and Merle, I think about sacrifice. They didn't just sacrifice their money and time, they were giving a piece of themselves. Today, the people who are involved continue to give a piece of themselves. You can see lives changing!" - Pastor Alex Davis, Son of co-founder Rev. Alfred Davis, Palmer Scholars Board Member

Recognizing the value of time in building trust-based relationships, Palmer Scholars’ Legacy program began accepting Scholars in their junior year rather than their senior year. As a result, Scholars receive additional training and supports and grow stronger bonds with staff.

Starting Scholars in Junior Year

The Palmer Pathways Pre-Apprenticeship Launches!

Expanding Access to Mentoring

Palmer Connections is an online platform that allows any young person over the age of 13 in Pierce County to access mentoring services. Leaders from the community offer micro-mentoring and career-connected learning opportunities from the comfort of their homes.
Jaomani isn't just any Palmer Pathways Scholar. While some heard of Palmer Scholars and the Palmer Pathways Pre-Apprenticeship program through a caseworker or a social media post, Jaomani has a history with Palmer Scholars. In 2015, Jaomani was accepted into our Legacy program as a high school junior, and began completing our Postsecondary Readiness Training curriculum that would prepare him for his transition into higher education. Jaomani graduated from Washington HS and started his first semester at Whitworth University in Spokane, Washington. Like many first generation college students, however, Jaomani struggled. After one semester, he decided to drop out of Whitworth. While Jaomani's story may have stopped here for many organizations, Palmer Scholars is not one to give up on any Scholar - wherever they start, whatever their path.

In 2022, Jaomani joined our second Palmer Pathways cohort. He, along with his 8 other cohort members, completed a rigorous training program that included physical conditioning and safety training, site visits, construction math, and the construction of a tiny home. In June of 2022, Jaomani and his cohort graduated from the program in a celebration held at Clover Park Technical College. What's next for Jaomani? Jaomani is currently employed as an electrical apprentice through the Construction Industry Training Council. Once he completes this program, he plans to enter join IBEW Local 483 and begin his career as a journey-level electrician!
Two Pathways Scholars Paving the Way

Savannah B. Breaks Barriers for Women in the Trades
Having joined the Palmer Pathways Pre-Apprenticeship straight out of high school, Savannah was always one to set her own path. At just 18 years old, Savannah completed our pre-apprenticeship program and went on to pass the Ironworkers' grueling set of tests for employment. This makes Savannah the youngest woman to ever pass these tests in Local 86 history! Savannah is now an employee of Local 86 and is enjoying starting her career, years ahead of her classmates who chose different paths.

Chandler C. Graduates from Bates Technical College
Chandler was a member of our first Palmer Pathways cohort, which launched at the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic. After completing the program, Chandler went on to study Sheet Metal Technology at Bates Technical College, where he made the Dean's List every term. After graduating from Bates in June 2022, Chandler secured employment with the Sheet Metal Workers Local 66 with a starting rate of $30.78 per hour. Chandler was also honored as the inaugural recipient of the Don Rupp Craft Scholarship to support him in securing work equipment in his first years of employment.

"Everyone at Palmer Scholars shows care for your future and helps you immensely to set things up for your future! I would like to thank everyone in the program and everyone supporting it. I honestly think that the Palmer Pathways program will help lots of people like it helped me."

Azamaia F.
Palmer Pathways Alum
"To any organization or person who’s donated, it has really helped to alleviate the financial stress of being able to afford school. I was able to support my family and work less as a result of Palmer Scholars, so I am grateful to you!"

Chris C.
Washington HS ’18
Whitworth University ’22

40 YEARS OF SHAPING YOUNG LEADERS
20 Scholars Complete Program in 2022

Musa A.
Gustavo B.G.
Karicia B.
Jacobi C.T.
Chris C.
Edgar F.
Priscila G.
Thomas H.
Mary H.
Nana-King K.
Dylan L.
Jennifer M.
Tre’von P.
Ahtziri P.P.
Anthony R.
Tania R.
Vicente R.L.
Jaomani S.
Javonte T.
Manuel T.G.
Caroline Y.
University of Puget Sound
University of Washington
Palmer Pathways
Palmer Pathways
Whitworth University
Palmer Pathways
University of Washington
Palmer Pathways
Pacific Lutheran University
University of Washington
University of Washington
University of Washington
Palmer Pathways
Palmer Pathways
Clover Park Technical College
Palmer Pathways
Pacific Lutheran University
University of Washington
Palmer Pathways
Palmer Pathways
Palmer Pathways
University of Washington

Sometimes being a Palmer Scholar is a family affair. Nana-King is the third in his family to graduate from the Palmer Scholars program. His two sisters Euwrama and Abigail are both alumna of the program and went on to complete Master's degrees.
Can You Help Us Support our Scholars?

Become a mentor to one of our Scholars! Through our Palmer Connections platform, mentoring has never been easier. Join today at connections.palmerscholars.org.

Become a sponsor! When you sponsor our Stand Up & Cheer event, we can ensure that all money raised goes directly to our Scholars. We also promote your business before, during, and after the event.

Wherever you started, whatever your path, we want to hear from you! Join our Scholars during their Postsecondary Readiness Training to talk about your professional journey. If they can see it, they can be it!

Make a donation to support Palmer Scholars! We can't do this work without you. Donate today at palmerscholars.org/donate or scan the QR code with your smartphone.

The ____________ Scholarship!

We think a scholarship in your name has a nice ring to it...

Establish a named scholarship with Palmer Scholars and know that your investment is backed by a family of staff and Board members who are committed to seeing our Scholars through to graduation and career!

Interested in establishing a named scholarship? Email giving@palmerscholars.org
THANK YOU TO OUR FOUNDATION PARTNERS!

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The Bamford Foundation
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Forest Foundation
The Gottfried & Mary Fuchs Foundation
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The Russell Family Foundation
Safeco Insurance Fund
Sequoia Foundation
Silver Family Foundation
Stewardship Foundation
Stockdale Family Foundation
Sunrise Rotary Club of Tacoma
Titus-Will Families Foundation
Umpqua Bank Charitable Fund
United Way of Pierce County
Voigt Charitable Foundation
Washington Alliance for Better Schools
Washington Women's Foundation
William Kilworth Foundation
Windows of Hope Foundation
Woodworth Family Foundation
Wells Fargo

"Without Palmer Scholars, I wouldn’t be where I’m at now! I think what excites me the most as a Scholar is being a part of a community and eventually being able to come back and support the community."

Kaliana G.
SAMI '19
University of Washington '24
Rotary Club of Tacoma North Scholar
40 YEARS OF STANDING UP

Thank You to Our 2022 "Stay In" & Cheer Sponsors

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STAND UP & CHEER

April 11, 2023 | 11:30-1:00 PM
Greater Tacoma Convention Center