

A Year in Review at the Foundation

2024 was a year of remarkable growth for the Pierce College Foundation. With increased support for scholarships, a record number of student success grants awarded, and the addition of dynamic new leadership to our team, we strengthened our commitment to empowering students and enhancing their educational journey.

These milestones reflect the collective effort of our donors, staff, and community to create opportunities that change lives and shape brighter futures. Thanks to the generous contributions of our donors, we raised over \$509,000!



2024 SCHOLARSHIPS:
211 Awards =
\$102,183

Scholarships Making a Difference for Pierce College Students

In 2024, the Pierce College Foundation awarded 211 scholarships for a total of \$102,183.

These scholarships have helped students overcome financial barriers and focus on their academic goals, contributing to higher retention and graduation rates.

Student Success Grants Lend a Helping Hand

Many Pierce College students encounter financial hardship off-campus, hindering their ability to progress towards their academic goals.

In order to address this barrier, the Pierce College Foundation provides access to Student Success Grants, which assist students struggling to pay for basic needs such as housing costs, living expenses, medical bills, transportation, and childcare.

In 2024, the Pierce College Foundation awarded **39** Student Success Grants totaling **\$42,069** in emergency grants.

To qualify students must:

- Be enrolled in 6 credits
- Have completed at least one term at Pierce College
- Earned a 2.0 or higher GPA
- Have no previous term debt
- Submitted a FAFSA or WASFA application



39 
GRANTS
\$42,069
 **in AWARDS!**

Laura R.

Fall 2024 Recipient

"I am so grateful for this help, which will make it possible for me to focus on the two important things in my life, my son and my education.

I hope that one day I'll be able to give back and help other people who are going through difficult times."



Johnson Science Building Grand Opening & Puyallup 25th Anniversary

In 1999, Pierce College Puyallup became the 34th community college in Washington and the second college in the Pierce College District. We were proud to celebrate our 25th year as a campus by opening a state-of-the-art science building that will expand STEM education in the community in October of 2024.

The Johnson Science Building is named after Chancellor Emerita Michele L. Johnson, Ph.D., in honor of her 45 years of exemplary service to Pierce College, and features art by American glass artist Preston Singletary.

Welcome to the Foundation Family!



Jennifer Wolbrecht returned to Pierce College in March 2024 as the Foundation Executive Director, after first serving as Director of Development from 2017-2019 and interim Executive Director from 2019-2020. Jennifer has been involved in nonprofit work in the Pierce County, WA area since 2003.

Most recently, Jennifer led development and communications efforts for a wilderness retreat center in the mountains above Lake Chelan. Jennifer looks forward to reexamining the Foundation's goals and purpose, and to dreaming boldly for the future.

"This is critical work. The Foundation helps keep students in school who are one flat tire away from dropping out, and who are working to change the trajectory of their lives for generations to come. I am honored to be a part of something so meaningful."



Born and raised in San Diego, California, Herbie Smith brings his talents as an Executive Director for a K-12 public school foundation, along with experience working with a private family foundation.

Herbie made the transition to the Pierce College Foundation as its Director for Donor & Alumni Relations in December of 2024 after serving as the lead Chef for the Pierce College Child Development Centers since 2023.

In his leisure time, Herbie enjoys cooking, photography, hiking, travel, and camping in the outdoors with his family.

"As a first-generation college student, the work I intend to do at the Foundation is deeply personal. I have experienced poverty and understand how education can be a catalyst to mental, spiritual, and financial freedom."

Upcoming Events in 2025:

Looking ahead we are excited to announce several key events in 2025, including:

May 1, 2025

Honoring Excellence:
Distinguished Alumni & Scholarship Awards

August 14, 2025

32nd Annual Golf Scramble:
Join us in making a difference on campus and beyond!

A Heartfelt Thank You

Thank you for your unwavering support and generosity. Your commitment has transformed lives, empowered dreams, and strengthened our college community.

As we embark on another promising year, we invite you to continue partnering with us to create opportunities for students and build a brighter future together!

