

RENTON TECHNICAL  
COLLEGE FOUNDATION  
**RTC**

# ANNUAL REPORT

2022-2023

Gifts **Inspire** Student Success

# Message from the President



**Yoshiko Harden**  
RTC President

It is a privilege to write my first remarks to our generous friends and donors in the Renton Technical College Foundation's Annual Report. I've had the opportunity to meet many of you during my first year as president, and I thank you for your warm welcome. I look forward to strengthening relationships with you this year.

I believe that educational access and success lead to a more just and equitable society. Students' ability to access education, complete their program, and start or advance their careers supports families and the communities we serve.

I know firsthand the power of education to change lives and better society. When I was 12, my parents divorced, and my mother started college at Leward Community College in Oahu, Hawaii. I watched my mother navigate starting college as an adult with young children, limited financial support (and limited time to study!). With financial aid and scholarships, she went on to graduate from the University of Hawaii, Manoa. She sacrificed so that I could have access to opportunities. This is why I have spent my career serving community and technical colleges in Washington and why I am honored to be the first woman and first person of color to serve as president at RTC.

As a college, we are doing all we can to dismantle barriers for students, especially those from historically underrepresented groups. Barriers like access to affordable housing, childcare, and transportation often mean students must sacrifice their education. Throughout this academic year, we're excited to develop a five-year Strategic Equity Plan to guide our college. Please watch for ways you can be involved.

Your gifts – large and small – make a difference every day to our students. Scholarships and emergency grants keep students on their educational paths when they face an economic hardship that could derail them. You will read about our brilliant and resilient students in these pages. Thank you for your continued and growing support of our students.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yoshiko Harden'.

Dr. Yoshiko Harden

## From the Foundation President

We are all born with individual talents, but sometimes we need someone to recognize and encourage them. That is the mission of the RTC faculty, staff, and of course the Foundation.

This year's fundraising exceeded expectations. Your gifts continue to come back to this community in countless ways, and the success stories are numerous as students build on the opportunities scholarships and grants provide. But there are many stories we don't know that are also important when it comes to support – how a tank of gas kept someone from losing a job, or how a grocery gift card allowed someone to stay in school. Students persist and achieve beyond many challenges and your gifts make a difference in real and tangible ways.

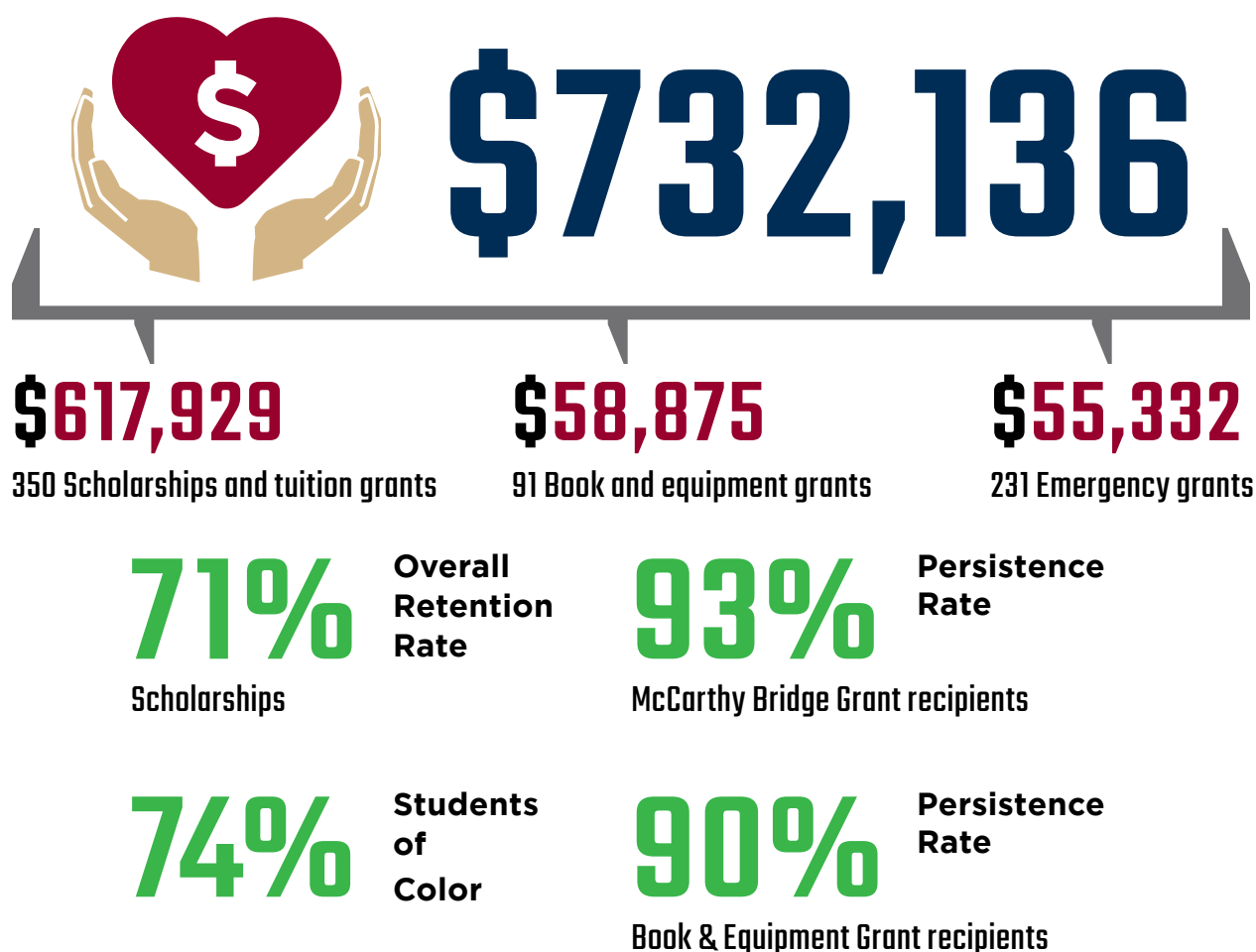
When a student knows that someone believes in them and sees their talent, the impact goes beyond money and resources. It's what often takes them beyond the classroom to see more than they could have imagined for themselves and their families.




**Lori Inman**  
RTC Foundation President

# Your gifts created a banner year of impact on the lives of students!

Your generous support is a part of hundreds of success stories. Behind every statistic and number are students developing their talents and realizing their dreams of career success. Because of your gifts, the Foundation provided the highest amount of direct support for students – over \$732,000 in scholarships and grants. Those numbers should make you smile. It sure makes students happy!



Note: Persistence rate measures students who have either completed their program or are continuing their education and training. The retention rate measures a student's enrollment from quarter-to-quarter.

A graduate student, Sarah Simon, is the central figure in the image. She is wearing a maroon graduation cap and gown with a black stole. She has long dark hair and is wearing glasses. She is smiling warmly at the camera. In her left arm, she holds a young child, and in her right hand, she holds a maroon diploma cover that reads "XENIACH TECHNICAL COLLEGE". The background shows a large indoor arena with many people seated in bleachers, suggesting a graduation ceremony. A large screen in the background displays a scene from the ceremony. The lighting is bright, typical of an indoor sports arena.

**Scholarships  
advance  
dream for  
healthcare  
career**

**Honors student Sarah  
Simon has heart of a  
caregiver**

Sarah Simon dreamed of becoming a nurse since she was a child growing up in New Jersey.

“I am definitely a helper and want to make people feel better,” Sarah shared recently. “I knew that I had what I call the gift of calm when it came to the process of care.”

That “gift of calm” showed up in practical and real-life events when Sarah was a teenager. A friend was in a serious accident and her aunt’s appendix burst. “I remember reacting quickly, with calm and wisdom during medical emergencies,” shared Sarah. “Those were times I had to step in and be the leveled-headed one, and that’s when I knew being a nurse was my life’s calling.”

That calling to be a nurse took her on an often difficult and extended journey toward earning her degree.

When Sarah could not afford the ongoing costs of attending a private college in New Jersey, she transferred to a local community college to save money. That year she lost her aunt and stepfather, and her family moved out of

the state. “My stepfather had raised me, and I was very close to my aunt. Their passings took an emotional toll on me,” Sarah shared.

Without family support, she ended up leaving school and moving to Georgia, where she met her current husband and had her first daughter. “I stayed home fulltime to care for my daughter and I put my education on hold.”

After moving to Washington state and being pregnant with her second child, the desire to be a nurse was rekindled.

“It took a lot of courage to go back to school,” shared Sarah. “But it’s important for my kids to see that life

isn’t easy, and that hard work pays off in the end.”

Sarah has excelled at RTC, including earning leadership positions as the Associated Student Government president, student representative on the RTC Foundation Board, and serving as a college ambassador.

Sarah is a proud recipient of the Swedish Medical Center Healthcare Scholarship. “I would not have been able to stay focused on school without this support,” shared Sarah. “Because of scholarships I was able to finish my associate transfer degree more quickly and I didn’t have to work while in school.”

As the first in her family to graduate from high school and college, Sarah knows what education means for her and her family’s future. “My mother immigrated from Puerto Rico, and she lived in poverty and raised her children in poverty. With scholarships you’ve given me the opportunity to grow, and I plan to be a donor one day.”

— “ —

**You’ve given me the opportunity to grow, and I plan to be a donor one day.**

# New grant creates bridge to great careers

The innovative McCarthy Bridge Grant provided 50 students with \$6,000 scholarships to cover tuition, books, and supplies during the 22-23 academic year.



Bridge Grant recipients are transitioning from RTC's College and Career Pathways programs. They all started at RTC in adult education to finish high school, learn English, or prepare for college. The outcomes for these Bridge Grant students are stellar!

Over 90 percent of recipients were either still in school or had completed their certificate or degree program at the end of the academic year.

These numbers represent life-changing opportunities for students who had often seen college as, "out

of reach," due to limited resources or life circumstances.

For Flor de Altagracia Reyes (pictured at left) in the automotive program, her goal to own an autobody shop is what keeps her motivated. "Receiving the McCarthy Bridge Grant has been a tremendous help, and was like receiving a prize," she shared. Flor takes classes at RTC in the morning, her English classes at night, and is also working.



For Elmi Aden (pictured above) in the Cloud Networking Technology program, the Bridge Grant has provided what he needed for school. "I don't have to

stress about my school studies. The grant has encouraged me and kept me going. I am very thankful,” shared Elmi.

We are grateful for Michele and Daryl Connell, Kathy and Tom Dahlby, Keri Ellison and Rob MacAulay, and Charlene Steinhauer, who made major gifts, and the numerous donors who gave generously to expand the Bridge Grant. Their gifts included a dollar-for-dollar matching donation from the RTC Foundation.



**Not only did this grant keep me going with my studies, but it was the very inspiration to continue my education.**

Onecima Izazaga Oreno – Early Childhood Education



## Double your Impact

All gifts to support the McCarthy Bridge Grant are matched dollar-for-dollar through a gift made by philanthropist Mackenzie Scott to the RTC Foundation. The grant, named in honor of former RTC president Kevin McCarthy, funds up to \$6,000 per student.

For more information contact Carrie Shaw at (425) 235-2415, or [cshaw@rtc.edu](mailto:cshaw@rtc.edu)

# Instrument technology program draws students from around the country



Students from around the country come to RTC to attend the Band Instrument Repair and Technology program. Known as BIRT, it is one of only a few specialized programs in the country. Meet Jonathan Metcalf-Burton from Maryland, and recipient of the Nancy McCarthy Scholarship for Instrument Technology Careers.

## Why did you choose BIRT?

I started working in the repair business when I was getting my bachelor's in music from the University of Maryland. The shop did repairs for private and public schools in Montgomery County, Maryland, and Arlington, Virginia. After five years of on-the-job training from the technicians, I just wanted to learn at a faster rate. I knew that meant going to a school that had a

technology program I picked RTC because I have family in the area.

## What is your musical background?

I studied jazz studies and saxophone performance in college, and I actually grew up in Washington until the age of nine before my family moved to Maryland. I've always been passionate about the arts in general. Studying painting, drawing, photography, music, and culinary stuff.

## How does the scholarship affect your future plans?

The scholarship is a huge help for me. I'm excited to learn woodwind repair and how to fix string instruments. I can't learn from reading books and look forward to hands-on learning.

My future plans are to go directly into the business as a band instrument repair technician and to live in a lively city, where there's places for me to perform.

## New BIRT Scholarships honors a lifetime of music



Music appreciation has been a source of joy in the life of Nancy McCarthy and for her late husband, Dennis, who was a musician.

Yes. That is the Nancy, as in the mother of former RTC president, Dr. Kevin McCarthy, pictured here together in Las Vegas. That special connection is one of the reasons she created the Nancy McCarthy Scholarship for Instrument Technology Careers in 2023. Nancy's scholarship is the first of its kind to generously support the college's BIRT students.



# Connell family expands student opportunities – in a big way



## Michele and Daryl Connell at the 2023 Scholar & Donor reception announce their gift to create the Connell Family Scholarship

For Daryl and Michele Connell and their adult children Jacob and Danielle, philanthropy is about being intentional and seeing results that improve peoples' lives.

“What excites us is when we see a young person find that great pathway forward in the trades or other two-year degrees and certifications,” shared Daryl. “It’s that student who might think college wasn’t for them, or they didn’t have the means to get a degree, but they’re good working with their hands or want to increase their skills. That’s the student we want to support.”

It was a tour of RTC’s automotive, welding, healthcare, and manufacturing labs that led to the creation of the Connell Family Scholarship through the RTC Foundation. “We were impressed with the passion of the instructors and students,” said Daryl. “It was all about tapping talent and preparing students for high demand, high wage jobs. Now that’s impact that improves peoples’ lives.”

The family doesn’t do things on a small scale, and in fall 2023 the Connell Family Scholarship supported 45 students in the trades, healthcare, IT, and business management, and 140 scholarships through the Washington State Opportunity Scholarship.

They included students like Wilbert in the welding program whose late father was a sheet metal worker. “This scholarship gives me the ability to help change my life for the better,” Wilbert shared. He is determined to become a second-generation sheet metal worker despite facing financial difficulties. “My determination to learn a trade and change my circumstances has kept me going. I feel honored to be a scholarship recipient.”

In addition to the scholarship, the family provided 20 students grant support for tuition, books, and tools through the McCarthy Bridge Grant. The grant is matched with funds from a gift from philanthropist Mackenzie Scott and supports students transitioning from high school completion, English learning, or college preparation to degree or certification programs at RTC. [see page 6 for related story].

“We have put our focus on south King County to make sure educational opportunities are available for everyone,” shared Daryl. “We believe community and technical colleges like RTC are the places where people can find that successful pathway forward.”

# 2023 Student Success Celebration – feel the music and the joy!

Over 200 people got out their flapper dresses and zoot suits to jazz things up for this year’s celebration of student success and to raise funds for scholarships. Congratulations to the 2023 Corporate Generosity Spotlight awardee Associate Builders & Contractors of Western Washington for their valuable investment into the talent development of RTC Construction Management students.



*Many thanks to our event sponsors!*





## 2023 Presenting Sponsor Invitation Homes

[Interview with Lauren Callon, Communications & PR Manager]

**Q: Invitation Homes has a robust community support and engagement culture. Why did you focus on higher education and career training?**

We rely on an army of skilled trade workers to help us support the day-to-day maintenance of more than 80,000 homes across the country, as well as extensive renovation processes before a resident ever moves in. But finding skilled tradespeople to support Invitation Homes' superior product and service is becoming increasingly difficult. That's why we launched our skilled trades initiative, Invitation to SkillUp. Through SkillUp, Invitation Homes is expanding access to skilled trades education, increasing awareness of the value of skilled trades, and engaging our associates in volunteer opportunities.

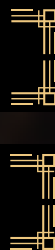
**Q: Why did you reach out to RTC to develop a scholarship for Property Maintenance?**

We identified RTC as an ideal school to partner with because the Property Maintenance programs that RTC currently offers align with our goal of preparing the next generation of skilled trades workers.

**Q: What are your goals around the Invitation Homes scholarship at RTC? Have you connected or hired any RTC students?**

We want to raise awareness of the importance of skilled trades education. By having RTC students engage with our associates, we are also aiming to showcase the career opportunities that are made available with this education.

While relatively new with eight scholarships funded at RTC last year, we look forward to a productive partnership working with the RTC Foundation and students in the future.



invitationhomes

# 2023 Celebrity Chef Dinner with Melissa Miranda



- 1 Joy expressed! Chef Miranda embraces RTC graduate Mary Ann Lizama who served as the evening's Commis.
- 2 Culinary students prepare Chef Miranda's sumptuous Ginataan na Sugpo for guests.

- 3 Viet-Wah Founder Duc Tran, one of the evening's Premier Sponsors enjoys a lighthearted moment with Chef Miranda.
- 4 Thumbs up from students for the opportunity to learn

- new culinary skills from one of the country's rising stars!
- 5 They brought the neighborhood! Longtime Celebrity Chef Patrons Dolores and Jim Kemmerer (right), enjoy a chef photo

Presenting Sponsor





with friends Dale and Sharon Johnston, Floyd and Kim Lorenz (L to R)

■ 6 Elle and Eric Aasness never miss a dinner at the RTC Chef's Table. Thank you for your generosity! Musang is a

favorite and it shows!

■ 7 RTC Executive Chef Tony Parker introduces the evening's student kitchen crew and praises Chef Miranda for inspiring his students.



# Machinist Union and RTC keep students on cutting edge of industry



Jon Holden, president for the IAM District 751 Union, is bullish about the future of aerospace in Washington state and knows that supporting future machinists and their training is vital for future growth in the industry.

“Our partnership with Renton Technical College centers around providing training facilities and the college provides accreditation for degrees,” shared Holden. “Many of our union members receive additional training at RTC, which is why we want to maintain and strengthen the partnership for the long-term and feel it is important to support students who want to pursue careers in machining.”

Since 2016, the IAM District 751 has supported 21 machining students with an endowed scholarship through the RTC Foundation.

Students like Angelo San Jose who has enjoyed putting things together and shaping metal, “as long as he can remember.” “This scholarship came at a time when it was needed most to continue my education,” Angelo shared. “It allows me to further my knowledge and pursue my passion in the machining technology class.”

In addition to direct support through scholarships, the IAW District 751 provides community leadership, valuable union perspectives, and industry expertise. Former IAW treasurer Susan Palmer served as an RTC Trustee from 2011 until 2021 and on the RTC Foundation Board from 2016 until 2021. Current Foundation Board member Heather Barstow is the IAW Administrator for Boeing Programs and serves on the Foundation’s scholarship committee.

Jon began his machinist career at Boeing in the Everett plant in 1997,

working his way up through union leadership. He’s served as president since 2014 and is deeply committed to the role unions play to, “improve peoples’ standard of living through workers’ rights.”

“The industry will change in the future,” Jon said. “We see more automation coming which creates another level of high-tech jobs in the area of maintenance and operations. We want to be on the cutting edge of what businesses and people need and RTC is part of that equation.”



**Machining graduate Angelo San Jose**



# Sellen Community Foundation inspires student to give back



Students in RTC's Construction Management Program.

This year, SFC created a generous scholarship to support students in construction management or related programs at RTC. The scholarship has already had an impact, opening doors for students to pursue their career goals and develop their talents.

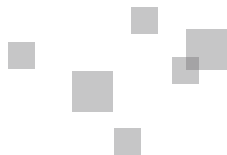
Hillary Schneider, SFC manager, shared, "Sellen Construction has been based in the Puget Sound region for nearly 80 years, and Sellen Community Foundation's approach invests in people, organizations, and institutions working to improve the lives of others in the Pacific Northwest. RTC has a strong track

record of preparing students from all backgrounds for successful careers in a wide variety of industries, including construction, which made our partnership a great fit from day one."

One student, Czarina Lizama, is working to earn her associate degree in Contemporary Business Administration and is the first recipient of the Sellen Community Foundation Scholarship. Czarina shared that being a Sellen scholar has, "instilled in me a sense of responsibility to make a positive difference in the lives of others and inspired me to give back to my

community to help others achieve their dreams."

The scholarship removed a significant portion of tuition for Czarina. "This support is allowing me to fully immerse myself in my studies and extracurricular activities."



Sellen  
Community  
Foundation



# 2022-23 FINANCIAL REPORT

## Beginning Balance

Unrestricted: \$ 288,061  
Restricted: \$ 329,995  
Endowments: \$ 1,971,354

**Total: \$ 2,589,411**

## Total Revenue

Unrestricted: \$ 197,864  
Restricted: \$ 447,690  
Endowments: \$ 2,087,127

**Total: \$ 2,732,682**

## Total Expenses

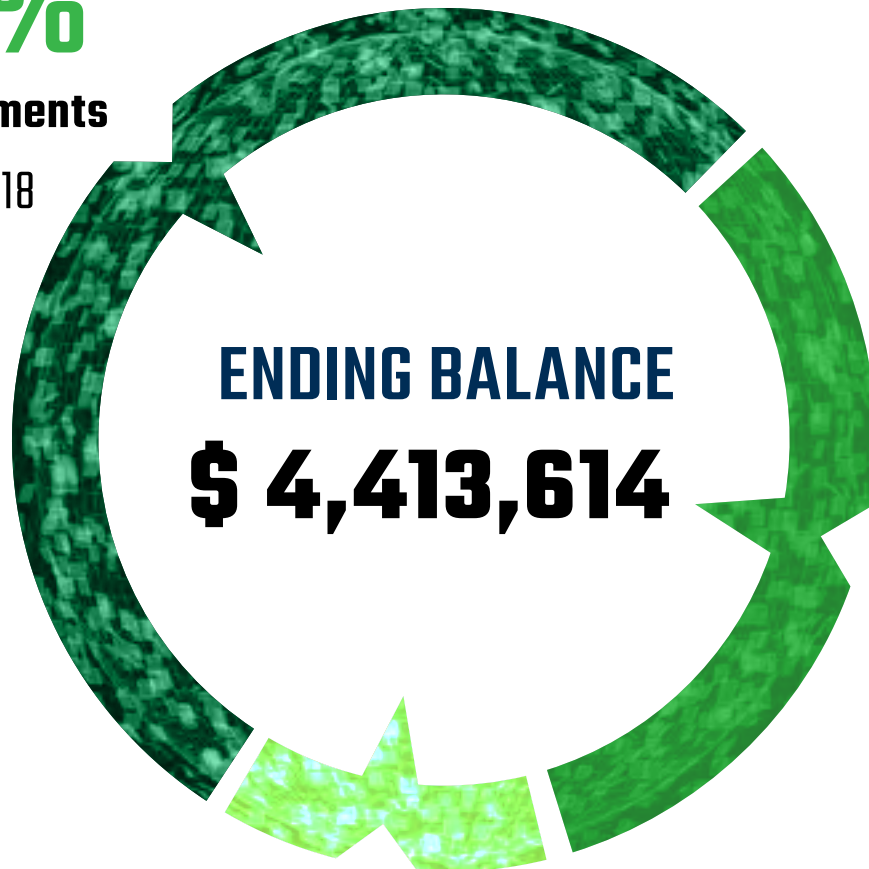
Unrestricted: \$ 121,041  
Restricted: \$ 456,274  
Endowments: \$ 331,164

**Total: \$ 908,479**

**54%**

**Endowments**

\$ 3,747,318



**36%**

**Restricted Funds**

\$ 405,802

**10%**

**Unrestricted Funds**

\$ 260,493



## 2022-23 Foundation Board of Directors

**Lori Inman**  
President  
Microsoft

**Bonnie Nichols**  
VP of Finance  
Ernst and Young LLP (retired)

**Kim-Khanh Van**  
VP of Development  
Attorney and Renton City Councilmember

**Brenda Collons**  
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**Ren Tarvin**  
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**Heather Barstow**  
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**Theresa Beauchene**  
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**Dr. Yoshiko Harden**  
President

**Jacob Jackson**  
VP Administration & Finance

**Carrie Shaw**  
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Denny Dochnahl  
Andee Jorgensen\*  
Stan Kawamoto  
Pat Newbury

\* Posthumous

## Foundation Staff



**Carrie Shaw, CRFE**  
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**Teresa Woods**  
Operations & Event  
Manager



**Ivonne Pereira**  
Scholarship & Grant  
Manager

## RTC Staff

**Christina Solis**  
RTC Budget, Accounting &  
Financial Services Director  
[W] 425-235-2352 ext.5509  
csolis@rtc.edu

# The Gratitude List • 2022-23 Foundation Donors

## LEGACY • Gifts over \$100,000

Chaine des Rotisseurs - Seattle Bailliage	First Financial	Microsoft	Ellen-Marie Rystrom
Michele & Daryl Connell	Northwest Bank	PACCAR Foundation	Seattle Foundation
Norma & Alex Cugini*	Grandma Cares	Charles M. Pigott	The Boeing Company
Estate of Eva C. Gordon	IKEA	Renton Concrete	The Norcliffe Foundation
Estate of Vern Gambriell	Andee Jorgensen* & Rich Wagner	Recyclers LLC	The Sharing Foundation
		Rotary Club of Renton	United Way of King County

## BENEFACTORS • Gifts of \$25,000 to \$99,999

Amazon	Bernadene & Dennis	Bonnie & Robert	SPEEA-Aerospace
Associated Builders & Contractors of Western Washington	Dochnahl	McLennaghan	Career Enhancement
Max Benjamin	Keri Ellison & Robert MacAulay	Microsoft Philanthropy	Denis Stearns*
Biella Foundation	Gene Haas Foundation	Muckleshoot Indian Tribe	Swedish Medical Center
Janet* & Harry Blencoe	Lesley Hogan	Pacific Northwest	The Grainger Foundation
Donald Bressler*	IAM District 751	Aerospace Alliance	Urban Renaissance Group
CHI Franciscan Foundation	Pearl & Donald Jacobson	Nancy & Jon Pozega	US Bank Foundation
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Kathy & Thomas Dahlby	Educational Trust	Renton Regional	Juanita & Bob Watt
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	Francisco Martinez	RTC Associated Student Government	Carol Werner
	McLendon Hardware	Carol Simpson & John Gordon	

## TRUSTEE'S SOCIETY • Gifts of \$15,000 to \$24,999

Autobody Craftsman Association	Dante Leon	Robert C. Roberts	United States Marine
City of Renton	Marty & Kevin McCarthy	Anne Simpson & Charlie Conner	Corps Support Group
CRU Foundation	Joanne & Jim* Medzegian	Special Vehicle Team	Kim & Kirby Unti
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Martin Heilstedt	Jan Pelroy	Melanie Tait & Steven Hanson	
Kathleen Hensley	Cecilia Pollock	Unico Properties	
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	Renton Housing Authority		

## **PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE** Gifts of \$10,000 to \$14,999

ATS Automation Robert Braun Building Changes Brenda & Steven Charlston Columbia Bank Crissa Cugini Cathy Cugini O'Neill & Sean O'Neill	Judith Frey Jessica Gilmore-English Leslie & Jerome Hewlett Hobart Service Invitation Homes Kendall Ford of Marysville Patty & Denis Law Melinda Merrell	Pacific Cascade Mustang Club Susan A. Palmer Primus International Tami Rable Jerry E. Warfield Investments Frieda K. Takamura	Team Reba RE/MAX Metro Eastside Terri & John Calnan Valley Medical Center Washington Youth Development Nonprofit Relief Fund Jane Winkler
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## **LEAGUE OF GIVERS** Gifts of \$5,000 to \$9,999

Frank Adams American Association of University Women/ Southeast King County Marcia Arthur Jerene Battisti Di Beers BMW Northwest Buckley Investment Group, LLC De Etta Burrell Martha Chamberlin Min & Michael Christ Suzette Cooke Sharee & Jay Covington Mary & Robert Cugini Barbara & Tim Culler	Enterprise Holdings Foundation Elizabeth & John Falconer George F. Walker Memorial Scholarship Fund GESA Credit Union Reba Haas Karen Hansen Yoshiko Harden Terry & Dennis Higashiyama Sandy & Graeme Howard Lori Inman International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 286 Judd & Black	Kaiser Permanente Dolores & James Kemmerer King County Housing Authority Sonja & Doug Kyes Holiday Matchett Marcie Maxwell & Robert Reeder Nancy McCarthy McGranahan Architects Model A Ford Club of America - Evergreen Chapter Glenda Mallowney Bonnie & Rob Nichols Jodi Novotny NW Alfa Romeo Club	O'Brien Auto Group Providence Health & Services Robin & Brian Rayfield Michael Sheafe June Stacey-Clemons & Lee Clemons Stearns-Shaw Family Foundation Charlene Steinhauer James Sullivan Viet-Wah Group Jinny & Craig Wesson Heather & Jake Winfrey Anne M. Zvirblis Martha & Richard Zwicker
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## **LEADERSHIP CIRCLE** Gifts of \$1,000 to \$4,999

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Timothy Black &  
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Fran Glaub  
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Mark Gropper  
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Hensel Phelps  
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Land Surveyors  
Association of North  
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Matthew Lane

Scott Latiolais  
Legacy Group Interiors  
Priscilla Manickam  
Beatrice Mathewson\*  
Shannon Matson  
Sheila May-Farley  
Jamie McGinnis  
Nancy & Doug Medbury  
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Faye Melton  
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Alma Meza  
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