

## A MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDATION BOARD PRESIDENT

Almost three years ago, many of us looked to the future with eagerness and optimism, only to have unforeseen challenges change our lives and the world around us forever. As we begin to move slowly toward the other side of these challenges, we find a sense of hope, a sense of purpose, and a sense of resilience that we didn't know we had. This is most evident in the students of RTC who face the future head-on.

Your partnership and unwavering belief in these students, as always, will support them as they forge ahead.

This year's Annual Report will show once again all that we were able to achieve when the options were limited, but the desire to succeed and excel were strong. We faced the challenge of having virtual events, and although we were finally allowed to do some events in person, we took the

opportunity to try new things. We mixed the virtual with the physical and were able to introduce people beyond our community to our cause. Perhaps we will return to our usual program of events with the easing of restrictions, but we will take away some key learnings to use in the future. And none of this could have happened without all of you. I'm very proud to know and partner with you to help our students.

The future looks a little brighter than it has for many, many months, but the students of RTC still need us more than ever. They will still struggle with the financial challenges of our economy and will look to us to help them realize their plans for school and for their future beyond school. The impact we can have as a community in the lives of the students of RTC is immeasurable. It is a legacy we can be proud of and one we can continue to build for the students of today and tomorrow.

Lori Inman
President, RTC Foundation



YOUR IMPACT

\$460,196

Total direct support to students

# HIGHEST AMOUNT IN FOUNDATION HISTORY

**SCHOLARSHIPS & EDUCATION GRANTS** 

LIFE ESSENTIALS GRANTS AWARDED

\$408,591

221

83%
QUALIFIED APPLICANTS
AWARDED

740/0 STUDENTS OF COLOR

73%
DETENTION DATE

# SCHOLARSHIPS IGNITE A FUTURE OF POSSIBILITIES

Automotive student Soda Kane's mechanical talents shined even when she was young child in Senegal, West Africa.

I like to repair things. I liked cars as a kid and loved to help and watch my father fix our neighbors' cars. I told myself, since I'm trying to go to school, just go for what you like, which is cars.



t doesn't take long to see Soda's drive to be an outstanding automotive technician and her eagerness to further her education, even beyond her associate degree. She is quick to share that her greatest joys are her four children and serving her community. Providing for her kids as a single mom keeps her motivated.

In addition to the demands of work and school, Soda is a caregiver for her elderly father. Faced with having to take on extra shifts at work, she applied for Foundation scholarships and received the Benjamin Phelps Memorial Scholarship for Automotive Careers and the Ronald Fahey Memorial Scholarship.

"Things were stressful, and the scholarships took a weight off of my shoulders financially," Soda shared, "I could now be more mentally present in class and focused on my studies."

Soda said that her decision to attend Renton Technical College was centered on campus values. "I knew that RTC was the place for me. As a Black, Muslim, low-



Soda Kane and family Looking ahead to her future, Soda's goals are all about empowering others and giving back to her community.

income, immigrant, single mother, I knew how important it was to be able to adapt. Empowerment is a necessity for adaptability, and I feel empowered at RTC." Looking ahead to her future, Soda's goals are all about empowering others and giving back to her community.

"I know the struggle of not having adequate car services available to me at an affordable price, especially as an immigrant, woman of color. I want to open an auto shop specifically catered to low-income people so they can access the services they need." Soda shared.

Above all, she sees her success as a reminder that "We are all capable of anything, regardless of whatever else makes us different from others."



## SCHOLARSHIPS GET STUDENTS OVER THE FINISH LINE

For Dick Knight, president of the Pacific Cascade Mustang Club (PCMC), it was all about keeping their support local to help new automotive technicians come into the field.

We chose Renton
Technical College
because of the Ford
ASSET program – the
only one in the state,"
shared Knight.

"The club had never sponsored scholarships before but felt this was a way to pay back to the community and encourage the next generation of auto technicians."

Ford ASSET students at RTC have unique opportunities, and unique challenges in an industry where their skills are in high demand and their earning potential can provide six-figure salaries.

Students are sponsored by local Ford dealerships, so they alternate their training on campus and work on-site at their dealership. The program draws students from across the state and region, including Idaho, Oregon, and as far as Alaska.

Tuition, tools, and living expenses can put added financial stress on students, especially at the end of their program when they are working on their associate degree credentials.

Enter the Pacific Cascade Mustang Club with a generous tuition scholarship. Last spring, PCMC provided four students with scholarships to cover their final quarter tuition - those students all graduated and secured jobs in the industry!

night says the club values the added skill set that an associate degree provides students. "Auto technicians need electrical knowledge as we gain more electrical cars, and they need to gain a great business aptitude," shared Knight, "I see auto shop owners getting towards retirement age, and the new techs need to be savvy enough to purchase existing businesses and keep those shops open. The College provides the electrical and business training as well with their degree programs which is good for the auto industry."



MARINE
VETERANS
GROUP
SUPPORTS
STUDENT
TRANSITION
TO CIVILIAN
CAREERS

Photo above: Marine veteran, Michael Farnes RTC accounting student and Ed Doyne, president of the Marine Corps Support Group. t might be a veterinary bill, added tool costs for school, or rent that went up unexpectedly. For veterans at Renton Technical College, life and school expenses can add to the stress of reentering civilian life and starting a post-military career.

Since 2017, the U.S. Marine Corps Support Group (MCSG) has partnered with the RTC Foundation to make sure those financial needs don't keep veterans from moving forward with their education and training.

Ed Doyne, Marine veteran and president of MCSG, shared that there can be gaps between what G.I. Bill benefits provide and a veteran's actual expenses.

"

Our primary focus is to provide financial assistance to young veterans who are recently separated from service and pursuing an education to advance their civilian careers," said Doyne.

"We place most of our focus on community colleges and technical schools, like RTC, since we believe the lower costs at these schools allow us to help the greatest number of veterans."

Founded in the 1960s, MCSG became a 501(c)3 in 1983 to provide financial assistance to Marine Corps and Navy corpsmen who have served as integral members of Marine Corps units. "In addition to our charitable work, the organization provides a venue for Marine Corps veterans to gather socially several times a year, including a large USMC Birthday celebration in early November," Doyne said.

Each year, the MCSG grant supports four Marine or Navy corpsmen attending RTC. "For many veterans, transferring the skills they have learned in the military to a technical field can often be more rewarding than a four-year degree," said Doyne, "The grant is our way to support veterans in a tangible way."





# STUDENT RENEWS DREAM TO GET DEGREE

s she prepares to graduate with her associate degree in Construction Management, Leilanna Barrientes sees success ahead of her in the industry and knows she is forging a path for others like her to succeed.

"My hope is to become an executive for an international construction company where I can run construction projects all over the world," Leilanna shared, "I want everyone to have a fair shot at earning a livable wage and learning a trade that they can be proud of, and to use my knowledge and experience to not only grow in my career but to help others along the way."

Leilanna knows what that "help along the way" can mean for a student's success and life trajectory. She is a recipient of the McLennaghan Education Scholarship. Founded by Robert and Bonnie McLennaghan in 2021 to foster excellence in construction training and lower barriers for students to pursue their degrees – especially for women and students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

For the McLennaghans, seeing the talent and drive of students like Leilanna is why they want to provide a scholarship that covers the full cost of tuition. "There are enough worries in life, and we just don't want students to have to worry about costs," shared Robert.

As a mother of three children, the added financial support made all the difference and meant Leilanna could finish her degree on time and focus on her studies.

When I was younger,
I never knew
opportunities like
this were available
to people like me.
So much of it comes
down to knowledge
and knowing what is

possible.

n addition to her school work and family, Leilanna volunteers to share her success story with young people. "It's important to talk about what success looks like, what it feels like, so others can see themselves doing great things and getting an education," she says. "You never know whose life will be changed because you shared your story."

Leilanna has found her voice in the construction industry by furthering her education at RTC. "I have always used my past life experiences to grow and share with others," Leilanna shared, "This next chapter is even more exciting because people that look like me or have a similar background can see a path to success like the one I found at RTC."



## RE-ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY

On May 14th, the community came out to enjoy a new season of opportunity with a Car Cruise-in and Career Showcase and an evening celebration of RTC student success and the companies and individuals who make scholarships and grants possible.

















- 1. RTC graduate, Maryann Lizama's lumpia was a big hit with guests during the evening celebration.
- 2. It's a DINO demo! RTC automotive faculty showcased how technology is used to evaluate machine performance.
- 3. RTC faculty and sponsors greeted the community and talked about career opportunities at RTC.
- 4. Trustee Kirby Unti and Foundation scholar and welding student Ben Ward with his wife Jebeesa.
- 5. Dick's and Peco's food trucks joined the fun with free food!
- 6. Foundation Board member Reba Haas and guests listen to student success stories during the evening program.
- 7. Longtime RTC Foundation supporters and community leaders, Bernadene and Denny Dochnahl toured the event in their mini-military jeep replica.

# 2022 CORPORATE GENEROSITY SPOTLIGHT AWARD



### URBAN RENAISSANCE GROUP

The Urban Renaissance Group is a company that believes the renaissance of cities and the creation of suburban spaces starts with community-focused environments and access to good, family-wage jobs.

URG believes that investing in our communities through programs like those at RTC is vital," said Randy Bartl, vice president of engineering.

"The quality of training that RTC provides its students in building operations and maintenance is unique to the industry and is not widely available in the Puget Sound area."

As a partner with the RTC Foundation since 2016, the URG has provided \$23,000 in scholarships for RTC students in Commercial Building Engineering, Construction, Commercial Property Maintenance, and Business programs.

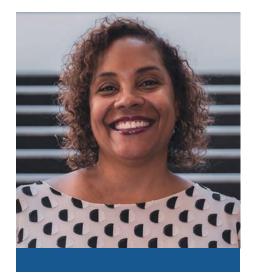
"From the beginning, they have been aligned with the mission of the college to create opportunities for career advancement," said Brenda Collons, former RTC Foundation president, "Their steadfast and generous support as a Student Success Event sponsor has impacted the lives of dozens of students with valuable tuition support."

"RTC's scholarship programs continue to improve outcomes for our communities and the commercial real estate industry in the Puget Sound area. URG looks forward to a continued partnership with RTC," Bartl said.

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#### **CAMPUS RENEWAL**

With a new president and the first in-person Fall Kickoff in three years, we recognized exceptional employees and givers. Many thanks to First Financial Northwest Bank for their valuable sponsorship.



# **NEW PRESIDENT** SHARES HER THOUGHTS ON HER FIRST MONTHS AT RTC

Dr. Yoshiko Harden assumed the presidency of RTC on July 1. The first woman and the first person of color to lead the college, she brings broad experience in college administration, student services, and equity-focused work.

She previously served as Interim President and CEO at Seattle Central College, Vice President of Student Services at Seattle Central College, Vice President for Diversity/ Chief Diversity Officer at Bellevue College, and Director of Multicultural Services & Student Development at Highline College. She earned her doctorate in higher education policy from Northeastern University. Her research focused on Black males in community and technical colleges.

She sat down for a chat about her first months at RTC and her vision for the future.

#### What have you learned in your first few months as president?

First, I want to say what an honor it is to be president of RTC and thank everyone for my warm reception. I have spent time observing, listening, and building relationships. I've learned that faculty and staff are really invested in RTC, our students, and their success. There's a lot of passion and energy around our mission. Our donors and community members are excited to collaborate and strengthen RTC and support our students.

What drew you to community and technical colleges?

I started at the University of Washington, and I remember being in a psychology class in Kane Hall with 800 students and not many Black students. I had a lot of self-doubt and imposter syndrome. I was a student that probably should have gone to a community and technical college with smaller classes and more support. I transferred to UC San Diego, a predominantly white student population.

My philosophy became wanting to create the four-year experience at a two-year college where everyone feels a sense of belonging.

As I continued my education and career focusing on multicultural services, I loved working with people of color and first-generation college students. That was exciting to me. My philosophy became wanting to create the fouryear experience at a two-year college where everyone feels a sense of belonging. I've spent my entire career trying to co-create the college experience I wanted.

#### What are RTC's greatest strengths, particularly as we emerge from the pandemic?

At RTC, we serve immigrants and refugees to help them build new lives. We close skills gaps, enabling students to find living-wage careers and meet the needs of the workforce. We provide flexible course options - hands-on training and online classes. We have a diverse student population, and yet we need to continually ask: Who is not here that should be? Who are we missing, and how do we reach them?

#### What are your priorities for the year?

I'm setting specific priorities with the Board of Trustees, but part of my goal this year is to engage and reengage the community. It's been a privilege to meet so many

2022 Exceptional Employee Awardees (from left to right): Christina Solis, Budget, Reporting & Financial Services Dir. Sue DeWitt, Administrative Assistant 5 Nancy Medbury, Human Resources Operations Manager Doug Medbury, Dean of Culinary Arts/Dir. of Catering Services Robert Holland, Professional Baking Lance Arnold, Program Manager/Instructor Anesthesia Tech\*

people who support RTC, and I look forward to their collaboration. I want our decisions to be made not just through an equity lens, but to be equity-Lasik, built into what we do here.

\*not pictured

I want to energize people around the important work we do. When students walk across the stage at commencement, it's heroic. Sometimes we know, and

sometimes we don't know

what they went through to achieve that milestone. This is challenging and joyful work. It is a privilege to serve as President at RTC.

#### **2022 EXCEPTIONAL GIVERS**

Christopher Carter - Dean of Allied Health Rick Hudson - Faculty Commercial Building Engineering and Property Maintenance Laura Knight - Academic & Career Counselor Jill Rupp - Adjunct Faculty Massage Therapy Practitioner, RTC alum Richard Zwicker - former Trustee, Foundation Board member and an RTC alumnus.

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# RTC AND ROTTLER MANUFACTURING'S SHARED HISTORY SPANS DECADES



For 100 years, Rottler Manufacturing has evolved, innovated, and expanded along with the region's manufacturing sector. In many ways, the company has shared its history with Renton Technical College, including hiring RTC machining graduates, serving on advisory committees, and sending employees to the college for continued training for several decades.

urrent company president Andy Rottler is an RTC machining graduate. He has led the 11-year partnership with the RTC Foundation to support scholarships for students in machining and manufacturing-related programs.

"My father, Don, started the family's foundation with a focus on young people who had limited opportunities for education advancement and outdoor experiences," shared Andy,

We see access to education and the life skills outdoor adventures and recreation provide, as a way for young people to help reach their full potential.

Dozens of machining students have benefitted from over \$100,000 in scholarship support from the Rottler family foundation.

In many ways, Andy's education journey reflects the paths RTC students have often taken to find careers in the trades.

Andy watched his father fix engines big and small as a kid where his job was always to serve as "dad's assistant." "My summers as a teen were spent working at the shop, sweeping floors and sharpening tools. I always recognized and valued what the company built." He shared that high school was a struggle, and after one semester at Washington State University, he knew the traditional academic path wasn't for him.

verything changed when Andy started a machining apprenticeship program.

"That's when I got excited about learning. For me, it was all about finding the right fit."

Andy completed his associate's degree at RTC and went on to serve as a machining instructor at South Seattle College and other apprenticeship programs, completing the loop as a student, mentor, and instructor, and now ensuring the family's philanthropy opens doors for future machinists and trades people.

In conversation, Andy reflects on his father's legacy and sustaining a multi-generational company whose products are sold around the world. "My dad passed away just last year at the age of 94. I know he felt great pride to see the company continue to grow and to continue its commitment to innovation and employee growth through education."

Photos on the left: Company president Andy Rottler is an RTC alumnus and is proud to hire graduates. Here he is with 2014 machining grad, Scott Juno.

## 2021-22 FINANCIAL REPORT

#### **Beginning Balance\***

Unrestricted: \$ 325,167.69 Restricted: \$ 383,750.85 Endowments: \$ 2,173,594.46

Total: \$ 2,882,513.00

#### **Total Revenue**

Unrestricted: \$ 68,883.25 Restricted: \$ 370,831.26 Endowments: \$ 202,509.38

Total: \$ 642,223.89

#### **Total Expenses**

Unrestricted: \$ 155,989.09 Restricted: \$ 424,363.86 Endowments: \$ 354,972.16

Total: \$ 935,325.11

# **ENDING BALANCE\*\* 76**% **ENDOWMENTS** \$ 1,971,354.88 UNRESTRICTED **FUNDS** \$ 288,061.85 **Ending Balance** Total: \$ 2,589,411.78 **RESTRICTED FUNDS** \$ 329,995.05 \*July 1, 2021 \*\*June 30, 2022

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2021-2022 FOUNDATION DONORS



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