



# A Year in Review

## 2022-23



EDMONDS COLLEGE  
FOUNDATION

# A Note From Edmonds College Foundation Chair Bob Terwilliger

This year marked the first of my two-year term as chair of the Edmonds College Foundation Board. There have been challenges, but 2023 has been a year of continued growth and success for the foundation.

One area of continued growth has been our relationship with the college. We've partnered on public relations and outreach campaigns that have increased our presence in the community. Also, the college worked with us to create a new look for our website, making it easy for the community to learn more about the foundation's work, its membership and its outcomes.

Various restrictions on public gatherings related to COVID-19 ended in 2023, and, as a result, the foundation held its annual INSPIRE Gala in person and raised \$315,000 to support the students and faculty of the College through scholarships, emergency funding, and impactful programming. In addition, thanks to the proceeds of the Eva Gordon estate gift, the Foundation was able to offer the College an additional \$42,000 in grants to support student-centered programs and experiences.

The successes of 2023 were possible because of the professionalism and enthusiasm of the Foundation staff, especially our executive director, Tom Bull. Tom and his team have the backing of a dedicated group of board members who believe that education transforms lives and communities. Together, we work to create more opportunities through education grants and scholarships designed to help our students, faculty, and communities continue to thrive. None of this is possible without the strong partnership between the Foundation, the College, and the community. I believe with Tom's leadership and the committed board, 2024 will be another excellent year for the Foundation.



# Looking Back on a Great Year

2022-23 was a year filled with incredible generosity and support from the Edmonds College community.

## 2022-23 By Numbers:



**Your donations supported 14 incredible programs and initiatives at Edmonds College.**

**Manufacturing Materials for Students**  
Advanced Manufacturing Skills Center

**Events for Student Support and Engagement**  
Library

**Digital Resources for Healthcare Career Exploration**  
Biology/STEM/Allied Health

**Student Newspaper Digitization and Archiving**  
Library

**STEM Award and Celebration Event**  
Chemistry Department

**Graduation Celebration Event**  
Pre-College Division

**Counseling Center Funding Grant**  
Counseling and Resource Center

**Collaborative for Creating Equity Event Support**  
Multiple Edmonds College Departments

**Licensing and Special Event Registration**  
Flyers Student Club

**Technology Upgrade**  
WATR Center

**Healthcare Job Training Tuition Support**  
I-BEST Program

**Construction Pre-Apprenticeship Program Outreach**  
WATR Center

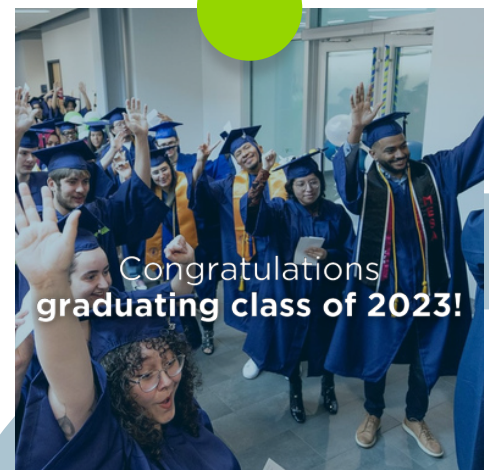
**Archaeological Field Funding**  
LEAF School/Anthropology

**Construction Pre-Apprenticeship Program Enhancements**  
WATR Center



# The Top Moments from 2022-23

Thanks to the community and donors like you for creating unforgettable moments that will be remembered for years to come.



# Past Foundation Scholarship Recipients

Where are they now?



## **Naol Debele**

Foundation Scholarship Recipient 2017

Associate Degree in Science Engineering, 2018

**CEO, N Jet Dynamic Limited Company**



## **Ruby Hayden**

Foundation Scholarship Recipient 2021 and 2022

Bachelor's Degree in Child Youth

and Family Studies, 2023

**Navigator: Men of Color Scholars Program,  
Edmonds College**

# Judge Whitney Rivera, Edmonds Municipal Court

In her role as municipal court judge in Edmonds and as a former defense attorney, Whitney Rivera has seen firsthand the effects that substance abuse, mental health disorders, and poverty can have on the community. She has presided over many cases, heard harrowing stories, and even had experiences in her private life that have helped her develop a deep connection with those struggling.

“When you’re in the criminal legal system, you’re taking law and applying it to facts while also trying to understand the people appearing in front of you, trying to understand their perspectives and their journey in making decisions that impact their lives,” explained Rivera.

“I think working directly with people as an attorney and then as a judge, hearing their stories, hearing their struggles, I have developed a lot of compassion and empathy.”




Her experience in the legal system has given her the necessary perspective to easily transition to her role as a board member for the Edmonds College Foundation. Judge Douglas J. Fair, also on the foundation’s board, recommended Rivera for the position. It has been a rewarding venture that aligns with her passions.

The Edmonds College Foundation was established to provide financial support through annual scholarships, quarterly Complete the Dream awards, and emergency grants for basic needs. The Student Success Fund also invests in college programs that provide wraparound services and impactful educational opportunities.

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**“The tenacity and grit these students have to make it through their challenges is inspiring. It’s very impressive to see what they’re able to do. Hearing their stories makes you feel like the work you’re doing on behalf of the foundation is so meaningful and changing people’s lives.”**





Rivera understands firsthand the importance of entities like the foundation. After graduating from Edmonds-Woodway High School, she attended the University of Washington. Without earning a full scholarship to Washington and taking out student loans to attend law school in Boston, Mass., Rivera knows she would not have been able to pursue her academic dreams. Her personal experience allows her to read each scholarship application through an empathetic lens.

“Reviewing some of the scholarship applications, it’s amazing the adversity people overcome to keep going to school.”

“The cost of higher education is obviously a huge barrier,” Rivera said. “I think about the students who don’t even make it through the doors because they don’t believe they can afford it or don’t have people who encourage them to pursue education.”




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**“I just reviewed Complete the Dream Scholarships. Giving recipients that extra little bump after all the work they’ve done — it is just really inspiring.”**

Rivera also knows that education can be life-changing. Not only did it change her life, but she saw first-hand how education helped her brother complete his comeback from addiction.

“Education really changes people’s lives,” she said. “My brother, who struggled with substance use disorder, ended up in a drug court program, got clean and sober, went to community college, and became a substance use disorder counselor. It was transformative in his life.”

Rivera has been directly involved with the transformative work of the foundation by volunteering her time, skills, and resources. To learn more about how you can become more involved with the foundation and help transform the lives of students in our community, email [foundation@edmonds.edu](mailto:foundation@edmonds.edu).



# Mark Your Calendar

Important dates to remember for 2023-24.

## 2023

Oct  
26

Oct. 26, 2023:  
**President's Circle Gratitude Breakfast**

Nov  
28

Nov. 28, 2023:  
**Giving Tuesday**

## 2024

Jan  
26

Jan. 26, 2024:  
**Annual Scholarships Open**

Mar  
23

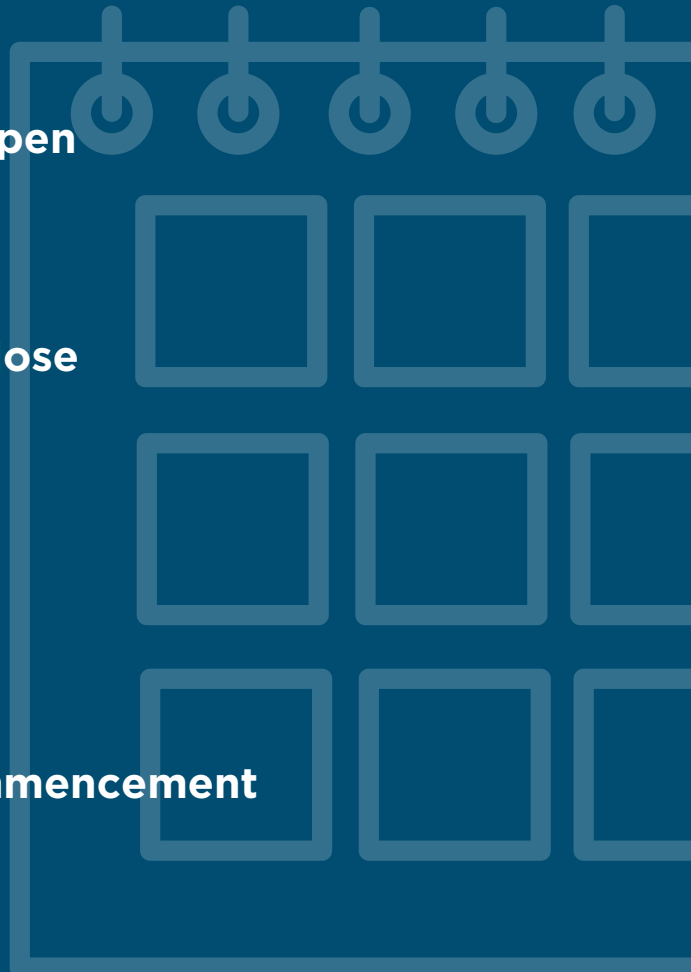
Mar. 23, 2024:  
**Annual Scholarships Close**

Apr  
27

Apr. 27, 2024:  
**INSPIRE Gala 2024**

Jun  
14

Jun. 14, 2024:  
**Edmonds College Commencement**





# This is the Year to Get Involved!

Empower students by taking action this year. Your involvement can make a meaningful impact.



## STAY IN THE KNOW

Sign-up for The Quarterly, the Foundation's newsletter that gives you the latest information about the foundation, college, and ways to get involved. **Sign-up here, [www.edmonds.edu/foundation](http://www.edmonds.edu/foundation).**



## VOLUNTEER

We are always looking for volunteers to support the foundation's mission of student access and success. Email **[foundation@edmonds.edu](mailto:foundation@edmonds.edu)** to learn the different ways you can help.



## DONATE

Your donations ensure students have access to the support they need to succeed through scholarships, emergency funding, and impactful programs and projects. **Learn about the different ways you can donate.**



# Get to Know the Team

The foundation team believes in the power of education and its ability to transform lives and communities.

## Mission Statement

The Edmonds College Foundation supports access, success, and excellence for students, faculty, and staff at Edmonds College.

## Edmonds College Foundation Team Members

### **Tom Bull**

Executive Director

### **Elaine Hall**

Director of Operations and Community Engagement

### **Ryan Davis**

Finance Manager

### **Sasha Rubashka**

Foundation Coordinator

### **Ciela Valle-Olguin**

Database and Scholarship Assistant

### **Tamarya Dreams**

Foundation Assistant

### **Nataliia Soloviova**

Accounting Assistant

Contact us to learn more about the foundation and how you can contribute.



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