

Student SUCCESS

South Seattle Community College 13th Year Promise Scholarship



2008 Cleveland High School 13th Year Promise Scholarship recipients

Vision

South Seattle Community College and the college's Foundation launched the "13th Year Promise Scholarship" in response to data from the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges highlighting the enormous difference one year of college makes in a students' life success. This innovative program was **developed to give Cleveland High School students the opportunity to attend college tuition-free for one year.**

Inspiration

We believe everyone deserves access to higher education, and students who enroll in college directly from high school are more likely to succeed. However, many high school students don't continue their education simply because they cannot afford the cost of attending college, and with annual tuition now approaching \$2,700, the financial barrier has become even greater.

But at South, we've always believed that education is for everyone, regardless of social or economic status, and it is our duty to reach out to those who otherwise might not have the opportunity to attend college. **Our campus offers excellent academic and technical programs that lead to high-demand careers, and we provide unique services designed to help students achieve educational success.**

We will build on this commitment by launching the "13th Year Promise Scholarship." **Beginning with the Cleveland High School Class of 2008 we will guarantee that ALL graduating seniors can attend South Seattle Community College for one year with their tuition covered by financial aid or scholarship funds.**

We began with Cleveland High School because it reflects the diverse demographic of our campus, and we want to encourage more students to access higher education so they can reach their dreams. In the future, we hope to expand this program to include all area high schools.

Impact

The "13th Year Promise Scholarship" will make a difference by:

- **Increasing the number of students who attend college** by removing financial barriers. More than 50% (52 students) of the entire Cleveland High School Class of 2008 applied for the 13th Year Scholarship!
- **Motivating more high school students to become college-ready**, knowing that their place in college is guaranteed.
- **Promoting the importance of education** throughout the community.
- **Helping students successfully achieve** their educational and career goals.

Achieving Dreams through a College Education

Studies show that community college students who form strong relationships with peers and staff have vastly increased chances for educational and life success. South has been the leader in identifying and implementing innovative student success strategies and can use this expertise to give our “13th Year Promise Scholarship” recipients every opportunity to reach their dreams. For example:

- Scholarship recipients will begin their college experience with an extensive three-day orientation program that emphasizes life success skills and foster friendships.
- Students will take some classes together as “co-hort” which will promote peer relationships and student learning communities.
- The Intensive Advising program gives recipients of the “13th Year Promise Scholarship” additional career and academic advising to ensure timely graduation and proper course planning.
- Each “13th Year Promise Scholarship” recipient will get a mentor, such as an older student or a staff member. Mentors serve as a valuable source of college knowledge and emotional support.
- South will collect and analyze data, such as college attendance, retention and graduation rates, to determine whether this program is working as intended – or if adjustments are needed.

In the applicants’ own words...

“My goals for my future are to attend South Seattle and go into the medical field. I am currently employed at an independent living facility which I have been working at for the past year and a half. I am motivated to start my first year of college at South.”

Davena

*Intended program of study:
Medical/Nursing*

“My goals as of now are to graduate from high school and to attend community college where I will further my education. I am interested in studying computers, graphic design and business.”

Jasmine

*Intended program of study:
Computing Technology Programs*

About Cleveland High School...

Cleveland High School is located in the Beacon Hill Neighborhood. Students study in one of three small learning communities: technology, health or global studies. **Cleveland is the most diverse high school in Seattle: 93% of its students are members of ethnic minority groups.**

Get Involved

Giving students the opportunity to attend and stay in college, **even for one year**, is crucial. Studies show a compelling threshold—one year of college, along with a job or career credential—will result in significantly higher lifetime earnings and greater likelihood of completing a two- or four-year degree. To ensure these students have this chance we need strong community support in the form of scholarship funds. Expanding this opportunity to high school students in other Seattle Public Schools is another goal of this program.

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SVI



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