

2019 Dream Awards

The **Student Dream Award** recognizes UW Tacoma students who have demonstrated consistent commitment to diversity and equality through activism, volunteerism, service learning, research, community involvement, and leadership.



Sierra Jones is a senior in the honors program, studying Communications-research with minors in education and community engagement as well as law and policy. Her life's mission is to help those from underserved populations realize that the life they are born into is not the life they have to live; and that through proper education, anything is possible. As a first-generation, non-traditional, college student, Sierra has faced many adversities on her educational journey and now advocates for equal access to a quality education and hopes to pursue a career in educational policy.

Sierra has spent the past 15 years serving marginalized populations in the greater Seattle-Tacoma area and continues to do so today. Her passion for uplifting the community shines through everything she does- from her advocacy work, volunteerism, mentorship, and community activism.

Since coming to UWT this past school year, Sierra has received high marks as an honors student, a Bamford foundation recipient, and a Dressel scholar. She founded a multicultural student organization on campus (MAPS) and worked as the program assistant for UWT's Achieving Change in our Communities for Equity and Student Success or "ACCESS" in STEM Scholars Program. Where she played a pivotal role in the launch of this year's inaugural cohort of underrepresented students. Sierra served as the assistant for the University's Communities of Practice- High Impact Practices project- giving voice to a diverse student perspective in the furthering of the university's strategic initiatives.

And most recently, while serving as a senator for the Associated Students of UWT, Sierra noticed a disconnect between the experiences of our students and the University's mission and was compelled to improve it. In the light of Dr. Martin Luther King jr.'s legacy, she faced the matter head on & full of passion; leading her to an internship position with the Office of Student Affairs as UWT's Student Diversity Liaison to further cultivate a diverse and equitable campus for all of the UWT community.



Theo Calhoun is a senior majoring in Ethnic, Gender, and Labor studies, and minoring in Human Rights. Theo volunteers with various LGBTQ and social justice groups in the Tacoma/Seattle area. Theo is also the Identity Program Coordinator at the Center for Equity & Inclusion where Theo plan events, workshops, and activities. Some programs that Theo has facilitated or worked on include a workshop on the importance of pronouns and identity titled Ask Me About My Pronouns, Disability Justice

with activist Dorian Taylor, co-emceeing the CEI's 2018 Umoja Celebration, and a Mexican Hot Chocolate Sip and Paint event partnered with the Latinx Student Union during the CEI's Self Care Week.

Theo spends much of his time volunteering at Oasis Youth Center in Tacoma, bringing a unique enthusiasm to others who struggle for equality. In fighting against oppression, racism, and sexism, Theo's personal zeal and desire to help those in need is truly an inspiration.

The **Legacy Dream Award** recognizes persons or organizations outside of UW Tacoma who have made significant contributions to the UW Tacoma community in the areas of diversity, social justice or civil rights. This award encompasses contributions spanning five or more years.



Rosa Gourdine Franklin is a South Carolinian by birth, and a Washingtonian by choice. A wife, mother, and grandmother, Rosa has more than 40 years in the nursing profession and 20 years in the State Legislature. She believes strongly in social and economic justice. For more than 50 years, Rosa has

advocated for diversity, inclusion and that all sectors of society have a place at the table. Now retired from both professions, but not from life, Rosa continues to "push the button" civically and politically for an America that treats everyone fairly regardless of race, sex, and gender. As Rosa frequently states, "This country belongs to all of us, not a select few and we must pull together as a team to 'lift as we climb'". She credits her parents, faith, family, friends, caring teachers and community for the foundation on which she has built her life's work. Rosa strives to leave the world in which we live a bit better than she found it. Dr. King was assassinated on her birthday April 4, 1968, and his work resonates with her, as his words from "I've BEEN TO THE MOUNTAIN TOP" speech April 3, 1968 in Memphis, "LET US STAND WITH A GREATER DETERMINATION, AND LET US MOVE ON IN THESE POWERFUL DAYS, THESE DAYS OF CHALLENGE, TO MAKE AMERICA WHAT IT OUGHT TO BE. WE HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE A BETTER NATION....."

The **Organization Dream Award** recognizes student organizations and programs that have demonstrated consistent commitment to diversity and equality through innovative programming, campus and community involvement, activism and leadership development.



The Pantry is UW Tacoma's on-campus resource for students facing food insecurity. The mission of The Pantry is "to provide supplemental, nutritional and culturally relevant food and hygiene items to UWT students with compassion, dignity and respect." The staff take steps to offer a wide variety of foods that take into account our diverse student body's various dietary needs based on culture

or religion. In addition to food, a number of hygiene items have recently been made available, and school supplies as well.

This year these students have made efforts to include programming to increase awareness about The Pantry and food insecurity. A recent student-planned event was a Cook-Off competition between staff and faculty. This will become an annual event, with an official Pantry "winning chef" apron that is passed from winner to winner.

The UWT Pantry has been serving students since 2015. In an effort to support our students experiencing a lack of resources for basic needs, such as food and hygiene items, the Center for Equity and Inclusion continues to partner with campus departments, as well as, community organizations work together to provide educational programming around food security and nutritious and accessible items to all current UWT students.