



## **2024 ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP REPORT**

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**Celebrating an impactful and  
lasting partnership between  
Sound Credit Union and  
The Milgard School of  
Business at UW Tacoma**







It is with sincere gratitude that we present the Milgard School of Business annual stewardship report to Sound Credit Union for your generous support of both UW Tacoma and the Milgard School of Business over the past year.

We have held campus-wide learning events for a large number of students, delivered numerous finance classes using Bloomberg data, inspired students to consider financial planning and save money, fostered innovation and entrepreneurship in FinTech, celebrated the most successful Business Leadership Awards, provided life-changing scholarships, and helped to feed those most in need. All thanks to Sound Credit Union's forward-thinking philanthropy. We have listed out these accomplishments in greater detail in the pages that follow and truly hope that it will give you a greater understanding of just how meaningful our partnership is.

It is especially of note that Sound Credit Union consistently lends its time, talent and treasure for the benefit of our hard-working students. These key elements allow us to provide a superlative experience to our students, differentiating them in the job market resulting in better jobs, and thereby transforming their lives.

Thank you once again,

**Altaf Merchant, Ph.D.**

Gary E. and James A. Milgard Endowed Dean  
Milgard School of Business

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## Impacting Lives Together

**800+**

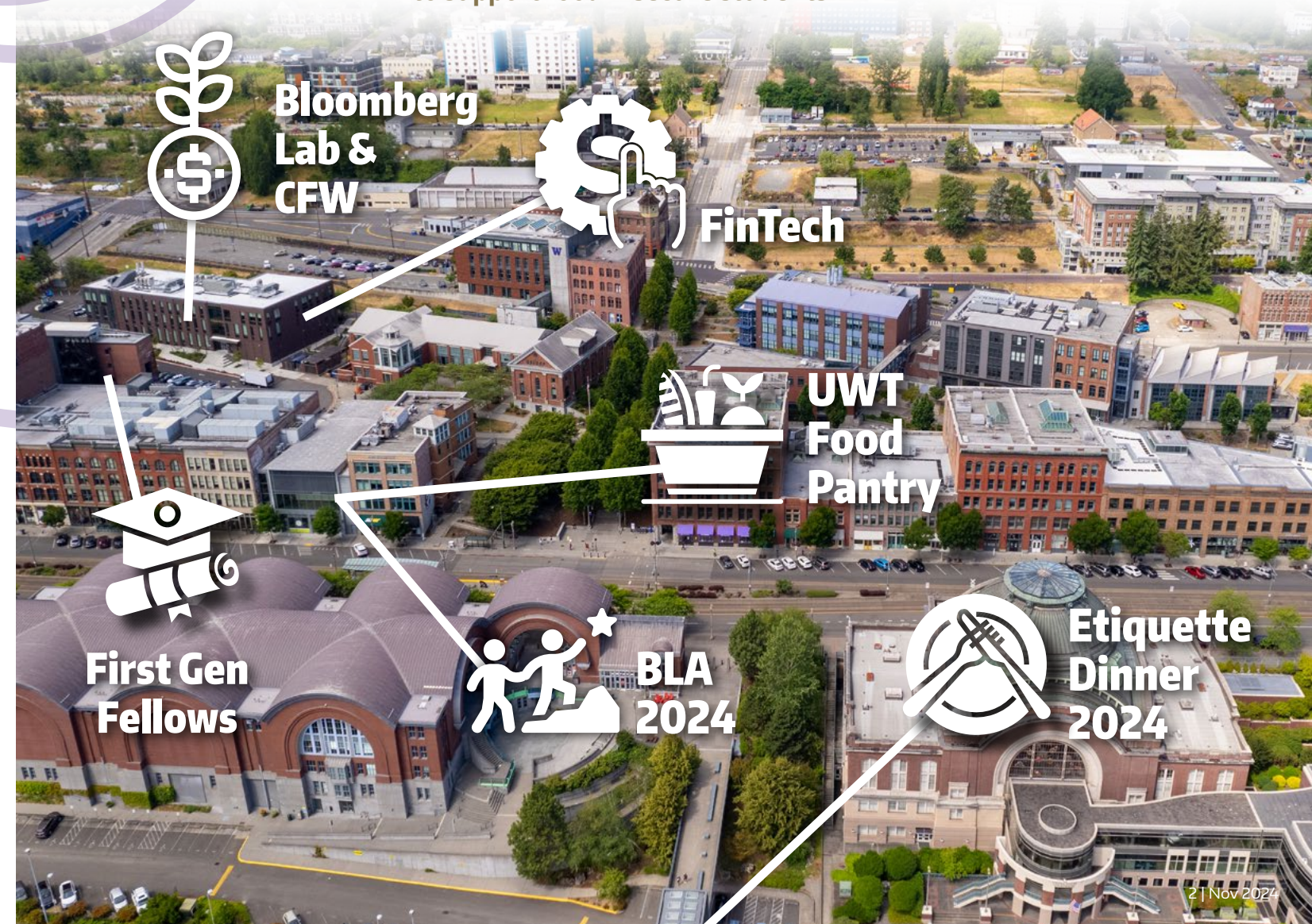
Active participants across  
16 Financial Wellness workshops

## Bloomberg Technology & The Student Managed Investment Fund

First of its kind in the UW System

**15,318**

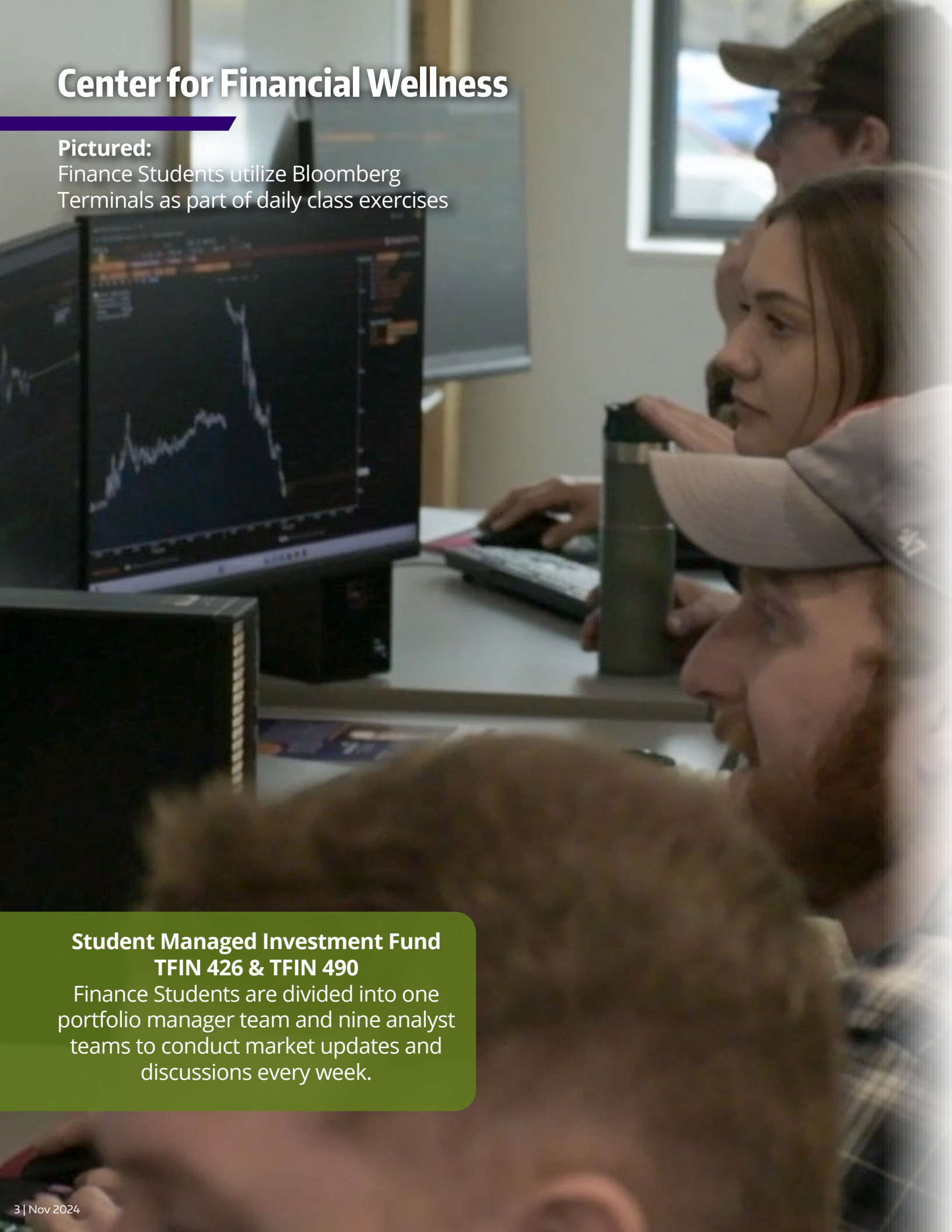
Pounds of food purchased  
to support food-insecure students





# Center for Financial Wellness

**Pictured:**  
Finance Students utilize Bloomberg  
Terminals as part of daily class exercises



## Student Managed Investment Fund TFIN 426 & TFIN 490

Finance Students are divided into one portfolio manager team and nine analyst teams to conduct market updates and discussions every week.



Fei Leng, Ph.D., CFA, FRM, and Associate Professor, leads the continued transformation of the Finance Curriculum with new ways to incorporate Bloomberg Technology



## Momentum Surges with Bloomberg Terminals & The Student Managed Investment Fund

After many requests from across interdisciplinary fields of study, the Bloomberg Terminals, that were so generously supported by Sound Credit Union, have now opened up for the entire campus to use. The Financial Wellness & Markets Lab has recruited two student lab assistants to introduce new users to Bloomberg and provide learning assistance.

Feedback from students has indicated great appreciation for the opportunity and experience with Bloomberg, placing them higher on the learning curve as they adjust to careers as industry professionals.

The Student Managed Investment Fund has formed its board of trustees and is preparing its legal documents for the incorporation of a nonprofit LLC for SMIF. Two SMIF-related courses (TFIN 426 & TFIN 490) in Fall 2024 have already begun to utilize both Bloomberg and this tangible portfolio to prepare recommendations.

Overall, we are currently in the midst of SMIF's formation with students, collectively drafting the important Investment Policy Statement that will guide how decisions are made.



Thanks to the generous support from Sound Credit Union, the Financial Literacy Initiative has continued to prove itself in elevating the level of financial competency across campus and our community. Together we filled a universal need for financial literacy by building a strong foundation that supports various life goals, such as saving for further education, using debt responsibly, starting a business, or retirement.

We have been able to fill the gap of trusted financial advice and generate a large following of students from across disciplines to events such as Understanding your Credit Score, Meet with a CFP, and First Time Home Buying.

In addition to these lunchtime workshops and speaker series to build financial confidence, we created and delivered a course during Winter Quarter, 2024 - TBUS 490: Special Topics on Personal Finance - Build Financial Confidence.

**800+**

Participants Across  
16 Workshops

**30**

Student Cohort Participants  
in TBUS 490

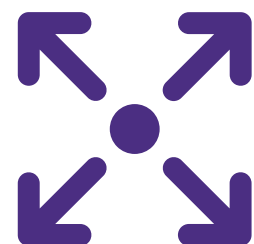
**THE NEW FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES WILL ENABLE  
US TO EXPAND AND IMPROVE  
OUR EXISTING PROGRAMS**



**Establish Greater Credibility  
& Engage with the Community**



**Sustain a Permanent  
Scholarship Fund**



**Expand our Platform  
& Channels of Engagement**

## Center for Business Analytics

## UW FinTech Pitch Competition



**Pictured:**  
2024 UW FinTech  
Pitch Winner Hayden Basic  
shares her idea to a panel of  
SCU & Community Judges

The Sound Credit Union FinTech Incubator Challenge increases the opportunity for growth amongst local innovators who have an idea on how to help simplify financial decision-making for the general public through technology. These technologies empower people to make better financial decisions and to make everyday life more affordable. Participants present their concept to a panel of judges comprising of UWT, Sound Credit Union, and community leaders. Feedback and advice are offered.

We offered a Speaker Series to cultivate innovators with the International Society of Service Innovation Professionals (ISSIP). This series featured topics on AI Impacts on FinTech, How to Create and Deliver Your FinTech Pitch, and An Intro to Early-Stage Investing. Additionally, four FinTech coaches made up of industry experts, supported students to iterate on meaningful intersections.

The hope is that those who participate will use the competition as a launching pad — a tool to help make their idea go from simply a concept to something that can tangibly affect lives. Phase one of the FinTech events include a pitch competition where Hayden Basic was celebrated as the winner. In coming weeks, phase two will develop finalist's ideas with \$10,000 in total cash prizes and a renewable membership to CoMotion Labs where these financial tools can disrupt the industry.

**Pictured:**  
A full class of students participate in the  
4-week Stock Market Investment Challenge



**Click Here to  
Hear from Students!**



# Milgard Success Center

On May 7, 2024, we hosted the 20th annual Etiquette Dinner. Sound Credit Union has maintained steadfast support as the #1 contributor of this event.

This contribution allows students to attend, have a catered dinner, practice networking with employers, communicate in respectful and adaptive ways, and be trained in the art of business etiquette by a professional trainer.

Students learn that getting the details right makes a difference to an employer or a client. Without the support of Sound Credit Union and our business community, this important event would not be possible.

## The 2024 Annual Milgard School Business Etiquette Dinner



**123**  
Attendees  
**2 Tables**  
Sponsored by SCU







Together, we celebrated the true Legacy of Leadership and brought together the business community

On May 14, 2024, we congratulated esteemed leaders at the 22nd Annual Business Leadership Awards held on the University of Washington Tacoma campus. We captured an evening of celebration and honor for the business leaders of the South Puget Sound and beyond.

The following awardees gathered with 185 attendees to recognize a legacy of serving this region in the areas of education, sustainability, the financial sector, real estate, culture, and nonprofit support services.

- **Clint Stein** - Business Leader of the Year
- **Dean Allen** - Lifetime Achievement Award
- **Dona Ponepinto** - Non-Profit Leader of the Year
- **Bruce Kendall** - Lifetime Achievement (Non-Profit)
- **René Ancinas** - Sustainable Business of the Year
- **Lyle Quasim** - DEI Community Leadership Award
- **Anne Jones** - Women's Leadership Award

TWENTY-SECOND ANNUAL

BUSINESS LEADERSHIP AWARDS

2024

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MEDIA SPONSOR



The 22nd Annual Milgard School Business Leadership Awards

185 Attendees





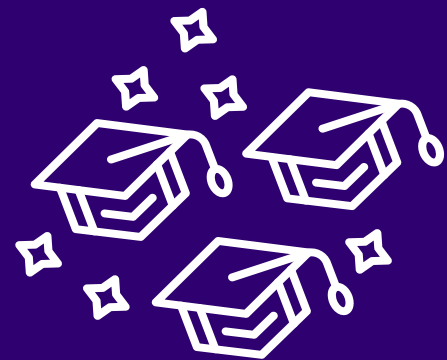
# First Generation Initiatives

First Generation college students are the students who identify as first in their family to attend college. The Financial Wellness cohort program teaches basic financial wellness skills such as budgeting. In addition, First Gen Students and students from diverse backgrounds received one-on-one financial coaching sessions.

The First Generation program was presented at the 2023 Higher Education Financial Wellness Alliance Summit in Eugene, OR to an audience of over 60 higher education professionals from across the country.

We incorporated point-in-time assessments of financial wellness using the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau’s Financial Well-Being Scale.

Fellows who participated in the program began their journey with an exam that measured their Financial Well Being across consistent, quantifiable scales to determine their initial financial capability and benchmark. After completing the cohort, students saw an average gain of 4.8 points, indicating students’ financial knowledge increased.



**16** | **34** | **17**  
AUT 23 | WTR 24 | SPR 24  
First Gen Fellows Cohort



**58%**  
First Generation  
Participants

**158**  
Cumulative Students  
Impacted Since 2020

**\$28,630**  
Total Scholarships  
Awarded



# What Our Students Are Saying

“Almost everything that I know so far about being financially responsible, from credit cards to investments, is self-taught. My parents don’t know anything more than saving cash. I want to break the generational cycle of strictly saving cash to learning investments and making smart choices.”

“Growing together with people you’re comfortable with takes you a long way, and just being a part of this program I already feel like I achieved years of learning in just these last two quarters.”

“Being a member of this cohort is a fantastic fit for my objectives of developing real-world financial knowledge and making a positive impact on people around me.”

“As a first-generation Black woman, I have felt the weight of these disparities and the urgency to address them head-on. Financial wellness, to me, is not just about personal wealth but also about the ability to secure a brighter future for ourselves and future generations.”

“I have a family, and I want to start making better financial decisions to build wealth and a better life for my kids.”

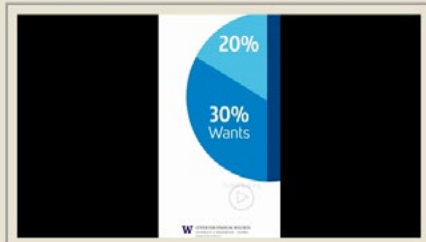


# Financial Literacy Scholarship



Cesia Amaya

Major: Management



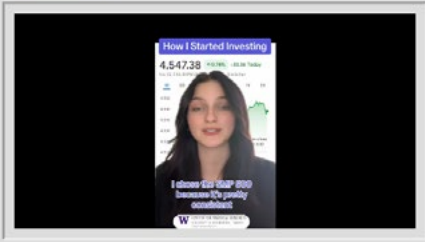
Navneet Singh

Masters in Business Analytics



Gabrielle Boyer

Major: Finance



Navneet takes a different approach, diving into smart investing and the practical ways money will grow through compounding. He explains how diversification and building up savings can set you up for longterm success and reach goals much faster than traditional saving methods.

In Cesia Amaya’s video “3 Tips to Stay Financially Fit at UW,” she showcases using the 50/30/20 rule to budget towards needs, wants, and savings. Additionally, she advocates for attending financial wellness workshops and speaker series hosted by the Center for Financial Wellness and taking advantage of the resources available in Financial Aid.

Gabrielle educated students on how to start investing while beginning with very little means or knowledge. She jumps into deciding on the right brokerage firm, transferring a bit of money through an app into an index fund, and discovering safe ways to overcome fears while making smart investment decisions.

# The Pantry at UW Tacoma

Thanks to donors like Sound Credit Union, The Pantry remained open to students 9 am – 5 pm Monday through Friday, and received twice-weekly deliveries to ensure all UW Tacoma students had access to healthy food and basic need items. Through Costco purchases made possible by Sound Credit Union, community donations, and the on-campus Giving Garden, the Pantry processed 15,318.6 lbs of food from January - July 2024.

Since July 2024, The Pantry has undergone a major refresh. Students have expressed how grateful they are for the Pantry to be a reliable source of food on campus.



“Thank you for being here, this is such a great resource!”

“Wow, it looks really nice in here!”

“I rely on this and really appreciate everything you guys do, thank you.”





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