

2013 Dream Award Recipients

2013 Organization Dream Award - International Student Organization (UW Tacoma ISA)



International Student Association (ISA) is a UW Tacoma based organization that was founded in February 2009. It has since carried out a number of creative, informational, intellectual and recreational programs continuously by hosting its annual major events and assisted with various on and off campus volunteer projects related to diversity and philanthropy. Examples of major events are International Language Social, Lunar New Year Celebration, and International Fashion Show for years (see below for details).

ISA organized the first International Student Orientation in 2009 to help students feel more oriented at UWT and had since continued the tradition and helped transform it to a two-day orientation. ISA members volunteer to help plan and/or participate in interactive activities such as icebreaker, panel discussion, campus and housing tour and scavenger hunt besides set up and clean up. ISA participated in various volunteer activities including but not limited to Student Team for Empowerment and Personal Success (STEPS) College Access Project and the Chinese Reconciliation Project Foundation's Walk for Reconciliation. In addition, we also assist International Programs (such as promoting their programs and offering advice base on our study abroad experience) and collaborate with various on-and-off-campus programs to create an empowering, respectful and inclusive learning atmosphere through different volunteer activities and programming.

ISA had since grown to a group with more than four hundred members, which help many people make friends with others of different ethnicity more easily. In addition, ISA provides relevant training, events and networking opportunity to advance participants' comprehension and ability to transform ideas into action. For example, ISA makes sure members capture any available opportunity to further their diversity comprehension and leadership skills by participating in trainings including but not limited to Club Camp, LeaderShape, Power of One GLBTQ and the Student of Color conferences and some relevant workshops.

ISA makes sure there are at least one to two ISA member(s) can participate in these trainings and take good notes to share their experience to benefit more people. Through their efforts, they have hence aided several members to be more active and capable in their own ways. For instance, some of their past and current members became/become productive workers and/or leaders in other organizations, such that as a Photographer and production editor at Ledger, a Diversity & Intercultural Awareness Coordinator at Student Activities Board, officers at Global Business Society and Women in Computer Science, the President at Japanese Language Club, the President at the Korean American and International Student Team and a voting member of Student Activities Fees Committee, to just name a few.

ISA has built close relationships with their members, so even after graduation, members will start or continue their leadership roles in our Tacoma community, and/or elsewhere, to take the values they learn here, and give back and spread the spark to others in various professional fields. ISA is dedicated to changing the world to a more positive, diverse and peaceful environment. ISA has demonstrated their wish to keep expanding their impact and by staying involved continuously on and off campus.

2013 Student Dream Award - Courtney Chandler



Courtney's community work and commitment to the future of our youth. Courtney is a member of the new Community Engaged Leadership program at UW Tacoma. Courtney is a Criminal Justice major and is driven by her passion for social justice and a more holistic justice system. She is currently conducting research for the Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration to improve their counseling methodology.

Her research will assist in healing the family unit, creating a healthier space for youth, and ultimately decrease recidivism. She will be bringing hope into the lives of those who are feeling hopeless.

2013 Student Dream Award - William "Bill" Bergman



"William J. "Bill" Bergman - A retired U.S. Navy Master Chief Petty Officer pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Healthcare Leadership with a minor in Business Administration. Bill is the President of the student organization, Partners in Action to Transform Healthcare (PATH) with a primary mission to be an active part in the community.

Additionally, he serves as a member of the Rotartact student organization as well as a volunteer with Kitsap County HIV AIDS Foundation. Bill has been married to his beautiful wife Liz for 29 years and we have three grown children Sarah (WSU 2005), Allison (WSU 2008), and Kyle, a sophomore at UW Seattle."